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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism with the second term of the Fitial administration?

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INSIDE

No Response

Haitian-Americans desperately try to get word from relatives and friends in Haiti. Most heard nothing back.

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Haiti Quake

Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets in Haiti, crying for loved ones.

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Ninth Season

Despite losing Paula Abdul, "American Idol" started its ninth season on a high note.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

IN RELEASE OF MASSEUSE FROM JAIL

Fitial: Severe pain prompted request

DOC commissioner takes responsibility for temporary release from Corrections

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial admitted yesterday to asking CNMI Corrections Commissioner Dolores M. Aldan last week to temporarily release from jail a defendant in a human smuggling case—whom he described as one of his best massage therapists—because he needed her services due to "severe" back pain.

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Judge orders hearing on unauthorized release

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A U.S. District Court for the NMI judge granted yesterday the U.S. government's motion to conduct a hearing on the alleged unauthorized release of a defendant from the Department of Corrections upon Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's instructions.

Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said the U.S. government filed a motion for an

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Babauta: No threat of deportation for those with legal status here

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, left, shares a light moment with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Visiting U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta said yesterday there is no reason for foreigners with legal status in the CNMI to be deported.

In interview with reporters on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, Babauta said the law that implemented U.S. immigration in CNMI allows foreign workers to remain in the CNMI if they were legally here on Nov. 28, "without any fear of deportation, until

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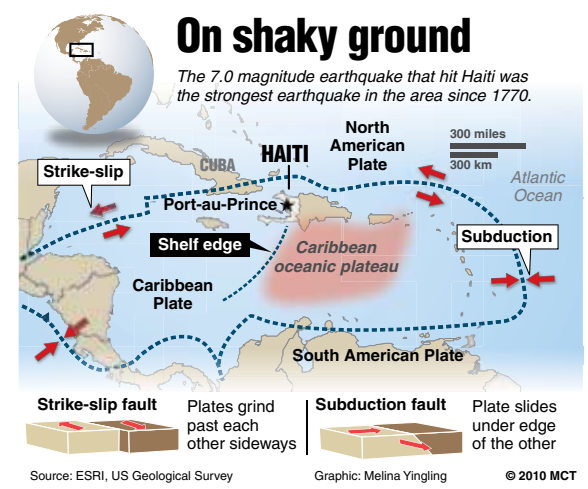
RELATED NEWS

- Interior gives $1.2M to the CNMI. PAGE 14



Quake in Caribbean had been predicted for years

By FRED TASKER
(C) 2010, THE MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—When news spread of Tuesday's catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, most of us probably said: "What? They have earthquakes in the Caribbean?"

But it was no surprise to geologists. For years, they had been predicting a quake in Haiti—possibly as pow-

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FAA: Tinian air traffic didn't pass standard for ILS funding. **PAGE 3**

2010: A recovery year for CNMI tourism industry. **PAGE 5**

Local

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Newly appointed press secretary Angel Demapan speaks to reporters as Teresa Kim, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos' legal counsel, looks on after a news briefing yesterday on Capital Hill.

Ex-Youth Congress speaker is new press secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former Youth Congress Speaker Angel Demapan is now Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary, a position left vacant by Charles Reyes since November 2009.

Teresa Kim, who served as interim press secretary since Reyes' resignation, introduced Demapan to reporters yesterday afternoon in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill, and in the presence of U.S. Department of the Interior officials.

Demapan served three terms as Youth Congress speaker, before going to school in Hawaii, majoring in communication.

Kim, who is Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' legal counsel, said the governor and lieutenant governor started looking for a new press secretary soon after Reyes stepped down.

Reyes is now assistant manager for office operations at the 2010 CNMI Census office.

"The governor and lieutenant governor interviewed several candidates. After the interview process, they chose Angel Demapan. He's been working hard the past few days already and I'm sure he'll have a good working relationship with the media," Kim said.

Demapan told reporters that his first few days have been "really tough."

"I am looking forward to a healthy working relationship with all of you. And hopefully we can get through these five years together," he said.

Demapan was referring to the five-year term of Fitial. A ratified legislative initiative requires general elections to be held only on even-numbered years, thereby extending for one year Fitial's term. Anyone who succeeds Fitial at the end of his second term in office will go back to serving a four-year term.

2 more suspects in Jonny's Bar burglary are arrested

The two other suspects in the burglary at Jonny's Bar and Grill in Garapan were brought to the Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered that the bail be kept at $10,000 cash each as the court earlier imposed on Johnny John and Jerry J. Sammy. Manglona set the preliminary hearing for Jan. 20 at 9am.

Police served the arrest warrant on 22-year-old John and 18-year-old Sammy Wednesday morning for burglary and theft.

Police arrested the first suspect, Roger Jones Sellem, 23, on Friday.

Jonny's Bar and Grill was burglarized on Dec. 26, 2009. The bar's padlock was cut with a bolt cutter. Assorted beers, hard liquor, and a beverage cooler were stolen. The ATM machine was also forced open, but the suspects failed to get any cash from it.

Police's investigation led to identification of the suspects and recovery of the stolen items later that day in Upper Miha, according to court papers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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'Tinian air traffic didn't pass standards for ILS funding'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
■ FAA satisfied with CPA's performance, assures funding aid. PAGE 6

The level of air traffic on Tinian didn't pass federal aviation standards, resulting in its failure to get Federal Aviation Administration funding for an instrument landing system project, according to a ranking FAA official yesterday.

"We want to be supportive… but we also cannot arbitrarily fund something that doesn't qualify for federal dollars," said William C. Withycombe, regional administrator for FAA's regions and center operations.

However, should the local government decide to go ahead and build one on Tinian, the FAA would still be required to approve it because the equipment will become part of the national air space system that FAA handles and monitors, he said.

"The installation of the ILS is a decision that the local sponsor has to make. If they believe that there's a proven need for it and there's a funding to be provided from other source other than FAA, that's their decision," he told *Saipan Tribune* after a meeting with the Tinian Legislative Delegation yesterday on Capital Hill.

Withycombe said that FAA's participation in the Tinian ILS installation will focus solely on aviation safety and security.

"We will have to approve any sort of system regardless if there is approved funding…because it will become part of the national air space system and, at that point, we need to make sure that it has to be properly maintained, flight tested and in line with our system," he added.

But he added, "FAA stands ready to help them with the installation process."

Once the ILS is installed at the airport, the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Tinian Legislative Delegation will have to assure the federal agency of the equipment's continuous maintenance, Withycombe said.

The ILS project has been in the works since 2006. Funding and opposing views about the need to install the equipment on Tinian delayed its implementation.

In November 2007, the Office of Insular Affairs approved the reprogramming of $4 million from the island's wastewater project to the ILS.

The CPA earlier said it is convinced that flights could still safely land on Tinian even without the equipment.

Initial cost estimates for the ILS project was $5 million, excluding maintenance costs of about $200,000 to $80,000 yearly.

ILS facilities are a highly accurate and dependable means of navigating the runway.

Convict gets 3 more months for violating probation terms

The federal court revoked yesterday the supervised release of a convict who admitted violating the terms of his probation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Steven Villagomez Pangelinan to spend three months in jail and 41 months of supervised release. He was also required to participate in a drug treatment program.

The U.S. Probation Office asked the court on Tuesday to revoke Pangelinan's supervised release for violating many conditions. U.S. Marshal Service agents arrested him on Wednesday.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson stated in her report that on Nov. 10, 2009, she received a call from a Fish and Wildlife conservation officer that Pangelinan had been arrested with two other men for illegally fishing at the Bird Island sanctuary.

Brunson said Pangelinan failed a drug test in May and July 2009 and admitted using "ice." Brunson also mentioned other violations.

At yesterday's hearing, Pangelinan admitted to all violations.

Pangelinan was convicted in June 1996 for drug trafficking. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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QUAKE

From Page 1

erful as magnitude 7.2. The problem was they couldn't say when.

"It could have been the next day, it could have been 10 years, it could have been 100," said Miami geophysicist and earthquake expert Dr. Tom Dixon. "This is not an exact science."

Geologists had long warned about seismic pressures building up along the Enriquillo Fault Line that runs from Jamaica eastward through Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and into the Enriquillo Valley in the Dominican Republic. The fault line is part of the boundary between the North American and Caribbean tectonic plates.

The earth is divided into about a dozen tectonic plates that float and shift, moving past each other at geologically slow rates. The North American plate, which includes the United States and Canada, moves west relative to the Caribbean plate, at a rate of about an inch a year.

And there was a chilling, if imprecise, prediction in a paper by a group of U.S. geologists presented at the 18th Caribbean Geological Conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in March 2008.

That inch-per-year movement had built up to six lateral feet of unrelieved pressure since the last major quake, in the south-central Dominican Republic in 1751. In a reference to Port-au-Prince, the conference report said: "This means that the level of built-up stress and energy in the earth could one day be released resulting in an earthquake measuring 7.2 or more on the Richter scale. This would be an event of catastrophic proportions in a city with loose building codes, and an abundance of shantytowns built in ravines and other undesirable locations."

As far back as 1998, Dixon, a professor of geophysics at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, says he and five colleagues published a paper in the Journal of Geophysical Research warning of seismic trouble brewing in Haiti. But again, they couldn't say when.

One geologist, Patrick Charles, formerly of the Geological Institute of Havana, called the danger imminent.

Even then, what could Haiti have done?

Long beset by poverty, political unrest, HIV and chronic hurricanes and floods, Haiti lacked both the technical expertise and the resources to study earthquakes, let alone take action to withstand them, Dixon said.

Dr. Amy Wilentz, professor of politics at the University of California, Irvine, and author of "The Rainy Season: Haiti Since Duvalier," agrees.

"A lot of the buildings are made of bricks and cement and tin roofs," she said.

"It's hard to envision programs like the ones we have in California to reinforce buildings and do earthquake stabilization, much less projects to make new buildings safe. It's hard enough to put up a building at all; the idea of making it perfect is Kafka-esque."

Susan Purcell, director of the Center for Hemispheric Policy at the University of Miami, asked: "This is the poorest country in the hemisphere; what are they supposed to do and with what resources? ... Most of them are dirt-poor and living in makeshift houses."

Richer countries can do a lot to mitigate damage from earthquakes, but even they can't entirely prevent it, experts say. In California, building codes have become stricter after each earthquake from the San Fernando quake in 1971, the Loma Prieta quake in 1989 and the Northridge quake in 1994, said Jeanne Perkins, an earthquake consultant for the Association of Bay Area Governments in San Francisco.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

the Department of Homeland Security issues its regulations on CNMI transitional worker permits."

But Babauta said the foreigners' ability to stay here is not indefinite.

"True, not indefinitely, but there should be no threat of deportation going on this soon after the transition date has taken place," he said.

He did not comment on the CNMI government's issuance of umbrella permits which allow nonresidents to remain in the CNMI for two years or up to 2011, but said: "I recognize that if you are legal on the date of the transition, which is Nov. 28, 2009, and you're legal and in good standing, you're entitled to be in the CNMI."

Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, for her part, said "the umbrella permits were a nice way for the local government to make sure everybody had some type of status; and as such, a lot of people that perhaps were out of status got brought into legal status."

She said the "numbers of illegals were reduced lately in the CNMI."

She said anybody with a legal permit status under CNMI law, whether a student or a guest worker as Nov. 28 is therefore "legal under federal law."

Her office made an "accounting" of guest workers and their dependents. Some 19,000 came forward to register with her office.

Babauta said the Ombudsman's Office's numbers will be used in the Interior's report to the U.S. Congress.

The federalization law or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 requires the Interior secretary, in consultation with the Homeland Security secretary and the governor of the CNMI, to recommend to the U.S. Congress, as the secretary deems appropriate, a permanent immigration status to guest workers legally residing in the CNMI, by May 10, 2010.

Workers groups in the CNMI are asking the federal government to grant long term guest workers and other foreigners here ""green cards" or lawful permanent residence status. Babauta said he is familiar with the workers' concerns.

Dialysis center

At the same time, Babauta expressed "a little disappointment" with the delay in the operation of the Department of Public Health's dialysis center which started as a $5 million project, then $17.6 million three years ago, to $22 million last year. The center's construction is mostly federally funded.

He toured the dialysis center on Tuesday in light of two Interior inspector general reports critical of the federally funded project.

"I toured the health center the other day and I'm a little disappointed that there are elements of the health center that are not operational. This something that the Interior's inspector general had pointed out at least two years ago. I think that it's something that the current leadership of CHC has been working on. They seem close to having it operational. I think its critically important to be able to serve some of the health needs of the people of the CNMI," he said.

As early as June 2007, the inspector general, along with the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, had already pointed out "serious deficiencies" in the contracting process for the dialysis center.

Two years after the release of the report, the CNMI government sued the original architectural and engineering design contractor, the Texas-based Leo A. Daly Co.

Babauta, however, said that DPH's dialysis center is one of the nicest facilities of its kind among all the U.S. territories. "This is a really nice one; it just needs to be up and running full capacity," he added.

JUDGE

From Page 1

evidentiary hearing regarding the alleged unauthorized release of Qing Mei Cheng from DOC.

"The court finds good cause appearing and the hearing shall be set for Friday, Jan. 15, 2010, at 3pm," said Munson in his order.

Qing was among 22 Chinese nationals recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to illegally enter Guam on a boat.

The 28-year-old Qing and Jian Li, 31, male, were indicted on 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S.

According to assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, DOC officials removed Qing from jail on Jan. 8 without federal authorization and brought her to Fitial's house where she provided massage therapy to the governor.

In court papers filed in federal court late Wednesday afternoon, O'Malley said that Qing was Fitial's regular massage therapist prior to her arrest.

O'Malley said that, early in the morning of Jan. 8, 2010, the governor instructed DOC Commissioner Dolores M. Aldan to deliver Qing to his private residence for the purpose of providing him treatment.

The prosecutor said that prior to delivery, Aldan repeatedly tried to contact Attorney General Edward Buckingham and the U.S. Marshals Service, but was unsuccessful.

O'Malley said Aldan did not attempt to contact Qing's counsel or the federal court.

Despite the failure to obtain prior federal authorization and having received Fitial's approval, DOC Capt. Arnold K. Seman, Capt. Georgia Cabrera, Corrections Officer Abigail Borja, and Commissioner Aldan escorted Qing to Fitial's residence in the early morning hours on Jan. 8, O'Malley said.

Qing was promptly returned to DOC after treating the governor.

"The government submits that an evidentiary hearing is needed to ascertain the facts and circumstances of these events, and to determine whether any prejudice was caused thereby," O'Malley said.

FITIAL

From Page 1

He said he didn't know that Qing Mei Cheng was in prison when he tried to reach her on the night of Jan. 7 when he began feeling severe back pain, until the early morning hours of Jan. 8, a few days before he was sworn into office for a second term.

In a joint statement with Fitial yesterday, Aldan took responsibility for the release of the defendant.

"I hope those reviewing it can understand that I understand the limitations on federal detainees but felt it was important to help the governor since he was in such severe pain. I made the decision to allow this visit to occur and regret that I was unable to reach federal officials or the attorney general prior to it happening. I have been advised and accept that I would not allow the visit again if the same facts arose," Aldan said in a statement.

Fitial, after a joint press conference with visiting Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta yesterday afternoon, replied "no comment" when reporters attempted to get his comments on the U.S. Attorney's Office's motion for an immediate hearing over the unauthorized release of Qing Mei Cheng from jail.

About an hour later, the Fitial administration released a statement explaining Fitial and Aldan's side of the story.

The statement said Fitial and Aldan have each prepared a sworn statement "to clarify lingering questions surrounding the facilitated and secured transportation" of a federal detainee from the Department of Corrections facility in Susupe to the governor's residence in Gualo Rai on Jan. 8 and back to the Corrections facility.

Fitial said he hopes his statement and that of the DOC commissioner will help paint a clearer picture of the events that took place.

"I made this request because this was an unusual situation where I needed to address the extraordinary pain I was experiencing and also wanted to follow proper procedures before a detainee is released from custody, even if only temporarily," said the governor.

Fitial said on the night of Jan. 7 and continuing into the early morning hours of Jan. 8, 2010, he experienced severe back pain and was unable to sleep.

"I tried to reach Qing Mei Cheng and found that she was in custody. I spoke with the Department of Corrections commissioner and asked her to get in contact with the attorney general."

The administration said Aldan attested to these facts in her sworn statement.

"I immediately tried to reach both the Attorney General and Don Hall who works for the U.S. Marshals [Service]. I know that we should coordinate on federal detainee removal from the facility prior to its occurrence. To the best of my recollection, I made about seven calls to the number I have for Deputy Hall and about six calls to the cell phone of the attorney general. I did not receive any return call and was unable to speak with either the Attorney General or Deputy Hall," said Aldan.

Fitial said after his conversation with Aldan, "Qing Mei Cheng arrived at my residence. DOC Commissioner and three other Corrections officers as well as my wife were present for the duration of Qing's visit."

The statement said Aldan exercised her decision to facilitate a secured transport of the federal detainee after numerous unsuccessful attempts to reach both Attorney General Ed Buckingham and Hall.

"I made a decision that a short, escorted visit for detainee Qing Mei Cheng to the governor's residence was appropriate. I also decided that we should have extra security just in case there were any later questions. Accordingly, I directed three officers to accompany me to the governor's residence," said Aldan.

'No questions, no promises'

The DOC commissioner also attested that the DOC staff and first lady Josie Fitial were present during the period that the massage therapy was administered.

"Following the conclusion of the massage therapy, I directed the return of Qing Mei Cheng to the DOC facility," Aldan said.

In both their sworn statements, Fitial and Aldan attested that no discussion regarding the detainee's legal issues took place. The short dialogue was limited to pointing out which areas the severe pains were coming from.

"I also recall that I did not ask her about whatever legal situation she may now face and made no inquiries or promises to her of any kind," the governor said.

Aldan added that later on the same morning of Jan. 8, she was able to contact Deputy Marshall Don Hall and Attorney General Ed Buckingham to inform them of what had transpired.

Spinal surgeries

Fitial underwent two major spinal surgeries in October and December 2006.

Since then, Fitial said, he has been having persistent pain from the neck to his lower back. He chose not to take painkillers but has relied on massage therapy to relieve him of the pain.

The administration's statement said the federal detainee has been providing massage therapy to the governor prior to her arrest and detention, and that her fees were paid through the company she worked for.

"I have found that massage therapy has been helpful for the temporary relief of back pain, including to aid in achieving restful sleep. Different massage therapists have had more or less success in relieving my back pain. One of the best has been Qing Mei Cheng," Fitial said.

The statement said Fitial's back pains escalated beginning about Jan. 6, 2010, "but he was unable to seek necessary massage therapy as he continued to focus on his responsibilities as chief executive of the Commonwealth."

On Jan. 5, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency arrested Qing Mei Cheng, along with 21 others, in a sting operation targeting a group of Chinese nationals attempting to illegally travel from the CNMI to Guam via boat.

She was indicted that same day on 22 counts of attempting to bring an unauthorized alien into the United States. She was arraigned on Jan. 6, where she pleaded not guilty.

Citing a high risk of flight, the court denied bail and remanded her to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. The Marshals then delivered her to the CNMI Department of Corrections, where she remains incarcerated.

2010: A recovery year for CNMI tourism industry

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

While 2009 was a tough and uncertain year for CNMI tourism, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its travel partners are convinced that 2010 will be a good one for the Commonwealth because significant recoveries are already being noted so far.

During the agency's bi-annual general membership assembly at Saipan World Resort, MVA board chair Jerry Tan disclosed that MVA and its travel partners are noting encouraging trends since the start of the fiscal year and tourist agents are predicting that both Japan and Korea's outbound travel will outpace the previous year.

"Our standing is a little bit better [today]. We still have some uncertainties…but we look forward to a brighter 2010. This year is good for us because we see 'recoveries' and a better economy," he told a crowd of over a hundred.

He said MVA is committed to working closely with airlines to increase air seats to the CNMI and tapping other markets like Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Japan market

According to Michael Merner, chairman of the Aviareps Marketing Garden and the event's guest speaker, Japan's outbound travel was projected to fall 4 percent in 2009 but is expected to increase by 8.3 percent in 2010.

This positive projection will continue if factors remain constant: a stronger Japanese economy and stabilized yen, low fuel surcharge, resumption of flights, and the subsiding effect of the H1N1 flu pandemic.

Merner said the positive projection for the Japan market was also in consideration of the Narita and Haneda airports' plan to increase their capacities in 2010 and other carriers focusing on international routes in the Kanto regions.

MVA also disclosed that it continues to try to convince Japan Airlines to launch regular service from Tokyo to the CNMI. The agency has also approached Continental Airlines to begin regular service from cities such as Sapporo and Fukuoka.

The bright future for the Japan market was also a result of the opportunities: Delta will launch its third daily flight from Narita to Saipan starting January this year and Asiana Airlines is eyeing the possibility of launching regular service from Narita to Saipan.

MVA also projects a 12-percent increase in air seats in 2010.

Some barriers for the CNMI include the price competition with Guam, which is dumping packaged tours, the persistent global recession, economic slowdown affecting incentives, the lack of fresh and new products for travelers, limited Japan marketing funds, and changes in immigration law that could discourage some foreign residents in Japan from visiting Saipan.

Korea market

Irene Lee, from the MVA Korea office, said that Korean outbound travel is projected to increase by 20 percent in 2010—from 2009's 95,000 arrivals to 120,000 arrivals this year.

It was disclosed that the acquisition of the Saipan World Resort by Hanwha Hotel & Resort was also among the factors that may bring a good turnout for the Korean market.

Lee said the 2009 arrival figure reflects a 21-percent drop from 2008's record, mainly due to the economic recession last year, H1N1 flu, and rate fluctuations.

The November shooting rampage that killed five residents and injured eight mostly Korean tourists continue to have a negative impact among Korean travelers, Lee said.

She also cited the stricter immigration security due to federalization and the possible increase of air seats to Guam.

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FAA satisfied with CPA's performance, assures funding aid

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting team of officials from the Federal Aviation Administration has reaffirmed its support for the islands' airport system after the Commonwealth Ports Authority demonstrated a "satisfying" performance.

William C. Withycombe, FAA regions and center operations regional administrator, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that one of the main reasons for their visit is to bolster their office's partnership with CPA and the local government.

"Obviously, we are satisfied…and this is one of the reasons why we're here, to continue that dialogue to make sure that there is a good support provided to CPA from the FAA standpoint," he said.

The FAA group is here for a three-day visit. Withycombe is accompanied by Mark A. McClardy, Ron Simpson, Lirio Liu, Tim Cornelison, and John Urquhert.

They are slated to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the island's lawmakers.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Federal Aviation Administration officials pose with CNMI lawmakers and a Commonwealth Ports Authority official right after the FAA made a presentation on aviation safety in connection with the multi-million military buildup in the Marianas in the Senate chamber yesterday morning. From left, FAA's Ron Simpson, CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Henry San Nicolas, FAA's Mark McClardy, FAA's Lirio Liu, FAA's William C. Withycombe, FAA's Tim Cornelison, Sen. Francisco Cruz, Rep. Trenton Conner, and FAA's John Urquhart.

Withycombe said they intend to re-emphasize with Fitial that FAA wants to work with his administration and will continue to improve the condition of the islands airport system.

Withycombe said his team wants open communication lines with the Fitial administration to make sure each party understands the requirements set by both federal and local regulations.

"Our message is we want to work with the governor to make sure that the island's airport system continues to operate safely. We want to set our communication line open to everyone so we all understand what are the requirements," he said, adding that it is the FAA's business to ensure that every federal dollar spent here goes to its intended purpose.

Due to the unstable power condition at the Saipan airport last year, the FAA stepped in and took action by providing funding assistance for a backup generator system.

"If there's a need for corrective measures on the part of CPA, such as the power failure, FAA stepped in and took action to ensure that airport is being maintained properly and safely," he said.

Military buildup

In a presentation to the Tinian Legislative Delegation yesterday, Withycombe admitted that FAA has major concerns about the proposed military buildup in Guam.

Since this troop movement will use the air space and airport and seaport facilities on Saipan and Tinian, FAA wants to ensure that all operations are correct and safe, Withycombe said.

"We want to make sure that air space utilization is safe for everyone, not only the military but also for civilian operations. We want to make sure that this operation proposed by the military is compatible with civilian operations that we constantly have here," he said.

The team also cited a concern about the runway system rehabilitation at the Saipan International Airport which, Withycombe said, would take a lot of coordination between all parties.

New executive director

With the appointment of a new executive director for CPA, Edward Deleon Guerrero, Withycombe is confident that more collaboration and constant monitoring will be established for all projects.

"I think our line of communication [with CPA] will improve, mainly because a new director was appointed, which is very important to us. There is someone we can go to and talk about the work on a day-to-day basis. We're very pleased to meet and work with him," he said.

Deleon Guerrero, along with the CPA board and officials, were present during yesterday's special presentation at the Senate chamber.

Withycombe said FAA provides funding on a project-by-project approach under the airport improvement program. Depending on the needs of the airport, FAA makes the determination on the funding allocation for any undertaking.

CPA received a total of $104.3 million in airport improvement projects funds from FAA in the last eight fiscal years. From 1999 to 2007, 49 projects were approved and funded by FAA, majority of which were for the Saipan International Airport. The Saipan airport benefited from 26 projects amounting to $59.7 million, which translates to 57 percent of the total AIP funds awarded to CPA during the period. Tinian got 14 projects, with total AIP funding of $36.7 million, while Rota was approved nine projects totaling $7.8 million.

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American Samoa officials plead not guilty

Lt. Governor and senator charged with fraud in US

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa's Lt. Gov, Faoa Ipulasi Sunia, and Sen. Tulifua Tini Lam Yuen have entered pleas of not guilty to the second superceding indictment brought by the US government last month.

They are to be tried in Washington for allegedly using their official positions to enrich themselves through the awarding of no bid contracts to companies they owned.

Faoa pleaded not guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, two counts of converting for his own use the property of another and one count of obstruction of agency proceedings.

Senator Tulifua pleaded not guilty to three counts: conspiracy to defraud the United States, converting to his own use the property of another and obstruction of agency proceedings.

The contracts were for renovations and supply of furniture for the Department of Education and Department of Human and Social Services which were paid with federal funds.

The trial will begin with jury selection today.

IN DISPUTE OVER PERMIT TO MINE POZZOLAN

Wiseman denies govt motion to bar JG Sablan from filing counterclaim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court on Wednesday denied the CNMI government's motion to bar JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. from filing a counterclaim over the Department of Public Lands' decision to revoke its permit to mine pozzolan and basalt on Pagan.

In denying the government's motion for summary judgment, associate judge David Wiseman said the CNMI failed to show that there are no material facts in dispute regarding the issues raised by JG Sablan in its counterclaim.

"Although CNMI raised several instances where JG Sablan acknowledged Public Law 15-21, the court does not feel that the government has met is burden for summary judgment since there are still several material facts in dispute," Wiseman said.

On July 28, 2006 the Legislature passed P.L. 15-21, which states: "If the DPL or any of its predecessors issued a Commercial Mining Permit, and received and accepted payment pursuant to said permit, such permit shall be held valid and enforceable for the period covered by said payment(s), and shall not be terminated or voided during said period except by the written consent of both the permittee and DPL."

P.L. 15-21 reinstated JG Sablan's permit to mine pozzolan on Pagan.

Wiseman said that since P.L. 15-21 did not become law until July 28, 2006, JG Sablan could not have raised its claim before DPL since it was not in existence at that time.

"In addition, since the law took effect after the DPL hearing and DPL did not rely on P.L. 15-21 in that decision, the court does not believe that *res judicata* or issue preclusion would be appropriate at this time," Wiseman said.

Under the doctrine of *res judicata*, the previous litigation of either a claim or issue may preclude subsequent litigation of that same claim or issue by the same parties.

In this case, the CNMI claims that *res judicata* applies barring JG Sablan from filing its counterclaim. The government argues that JG Sablan could have invoked the protective provisions of P.L. 15-21 during the 28 months of the lawsuit, but failed to do so.

JG Sablan, however, asserts that they exhausted all administrative remedies by protesting DPL's administrative action on May 3, 2006.

JG Sablan further claims that at the July 14, 2006, hearing they raised every defense they could, but did not address P.L. 15-21 because the law was nonexistent at that time.

The CNMI argues that the court's decision on Dec. 31, 2008, was final for purposes of appeal, and therefore, should preclude JG Sablan in any subsequent lawsuits based on the same cause of action.

In his Dec. 31, 2008 order, Wiseman affirmed the decision of DPL to revoke the mining permit issued to JG Sablan, which allowed the company to mine pozzolan and basalt on Pagan for 20 years. The judge ruled that DPL's decision to revoke the permit was reasonable.

The government then sued JG Sablan, asking the court to declare as unconstitutional P.L. 15-21. JG Sablan filed a counterclaim against DPL or the government.

Ex-Rep. Santos is named chief prosecutor

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has appointed former House representative Rosemond Blanco Santos as chief prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

In a Wednesday letter to Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja, Buckingham said Santos assumes the role of chief prosecutor effective immediately.

Santos

"The partnership between the courts and the OAG is essential for us to fulfill our duties to the public. I am grateful for the skills that Rosemond brings to this position and look forward to us all having a constructive and productive working relationship," Buckingham said.

Santos sought re-election for Saipan's Precinct 5 under the Republican Party in the Nov. 7 election, but she placed fifth among eight candidates. Frederick Peters Deleon Guerrero (Independent) and Ramon Sablan Basa (Covenant) won the two seats available.

Santos served as assistant attorney general for three years and a half before being elected to the 16th House.

Assistant attorney general George Hasselback served as acting chief prosecutor when then chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch resigned last year.

Saipan Tribune learned that assistant attorney general Gregory Baka also resigned recently. Baka last reported for duty on Jan. 4, 2010. There are talks that he and his family will be moving to the U.S. mainland. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan.15, 1999

DPH shifts strategy to track AIDS

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez is suggesting to adopt the "routine with notification" program in administering HIV test among pregnant women amid legal questions in a mandatory test. Under this program, Villagomez said, mothers will be informed that a certain test like HIV is a standard part of prenatal care, but they still have the right to refuse it. "Most women will be tested unless they explicitly opt out. Written informed consent is not necessary, but providers might want to document patient refusals in order to protect themselves from malpractice liability," Villagomez said in a letter to Rep. Heinz Hofschneider. "I am proposing, however, that we seriously look at the program of routine with notification as a possible compromise between strictly voluntary and strictly mandatory screening programs. The woman must be explicitly informed of the test, and that she has the opportunity to opt out," he added.

Legislature says finance may have erred in budget cut

The CNMI Legislature is asking finance officials to correct what is apparently a miscalculation in their budget allotment for the second quarter which resulted to more than 20 percent cut way above the recent slash implemented by the Tenorio administration. Some members of the House of Representative met the other day with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Mike Sablan, special advisor for budget and finance, to raise the issue which they said may impact on their operations and ongoing programs. They reminded the administration an existing law provides that they have to inform the legislature of the cut prior to handing them an amount much lower what they had anticipated even with the 13.4 percent "across-the-board" reduction.

Jan.15, 2001

Police widens scope of probe on savings scam

Police are looking into reports of a third savings scam prompting investigators to widen their probe as more garment factory workers have been victimized. Capt. Delbert Sablan said they are investigating new leads that the factory workers invested their money in another company based on testimonies of some employees. "We simply cannot interview all of them because we have to attend to our other cases. We will be able to get more information as we gather the set of questionnaires distributed to the different factories for the workers to answer," said Capt. Sablan. The Department of Public Safety is appealing to the remaining shareholders of Long City Traders Corp., the company which collected the money of the garment workers as they were promised to double their investment in three months.

Pellegrino: Help educate community on value of hard work

Newly-elected Saipan Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Pellegrino challenged the members Saturday to assist in educating the community about the value of business and hard work. Mr. Pellegrino said the Saipan Chamber must act as "the guiding light and the catalyst" in bringing the private and public sectors together in reviving the island's ailing economy. Due to its strong influence in the community, the business organization's role in creating an environment that will unite common goals can be done through a series of round-table discussions with the government.

Jan. 15, 2002

Hope springs eternal for retro pay

Despite the sluggish economy, there are still a number of creative possibilities the CNMI government can tap into to pay off the estimated $89 million it owes under the land compensation program and retroactive pay to government workers. This was stressed by Rep. William S. Torres, who added that he will be reviving a resolution and a legislative initiative he introduced in the 12th Legislature, which both addressed the backlog in the issuance of payments for land compensation claims. The CNMI government owes nearly $70 million under the land compensation program and $19 million in retroactive pay.

DPS dreads manpower shortage

The Department of Public Safety is dreading a manpower shortage after next month, with the deployment of 17 police officers to military duty in Okinawa and Hawaii. DPS officers Eldon Dela Cruz, Jerome Bermudes and Police Major Bertha Tudela last week were sent by a Guam-based military police company to serve on active duty in Okinawa for an entire year, Acting Police Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela said.

Motion to dismiss suit vs Fund, Fitial placed under advisement

The federal court placed yesterday under advisement the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees' motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by two unnamed retired government employees.

After conducting a hearing on the motion, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson said that a written ruling would be forthcoming.

At the hearing, Munson asked counsels about the status of the case.

Bruce Jorgensen, lawyer for the plaintiffs, appeared via telephone. Assistant attorney general Elchinon Golob and James Hollman represented the CNMI government and the Fund respectively. Viola Alepuyo and Deborah Fisher appeared as counsels for the Fund's board of trustees.

The government's position is that the plaintiffs' motion is not supported by factual allegations or facts.

Golob asserted that the lawsuit should be dismissed because the plaintiffs failed to establish actual or imminent injury and therefore lack standing to continue with the suit.

Further, Golob said, the case should be dismissed because the complainants used fictitious names, a violation of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure and the public's common law right to access to court proceedings.

In the motion to dismiss, said Alepuyo the lawsuit is "a bald attempt to hijack an ongoing lawsuit in the Superior Court for the plaintiffs' own enrichment."

Alepuyo said the board and the trustees believe that the court should dismiss the lawsuit. As an alternative, she said the federal court should hold the lawsuit in abeyance, pending the exhaustion of state remedies.

Two alleged retired government employees are suing the CNMI government over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits. They later amended their complaint to include Gov. Benigno Fitial and others as defendants in the lawsuit.

The Maryland-based Jorgensen is representing the plaintiffs, whose identities were being withheld, reportedly due to personal safety and fear of retaliation and persecution.

Jorgensen opposed the motion to dismiss, asking the court to hold CNMI Public Law 15-15 violative of rights and protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

P.L. 15-15 authorized the suspension of CNMI payments owed to the Retirement Fund during a portion of the 2006 fiscal year and all of the 2007 calendar year. Fitial signed it into law in June 2006. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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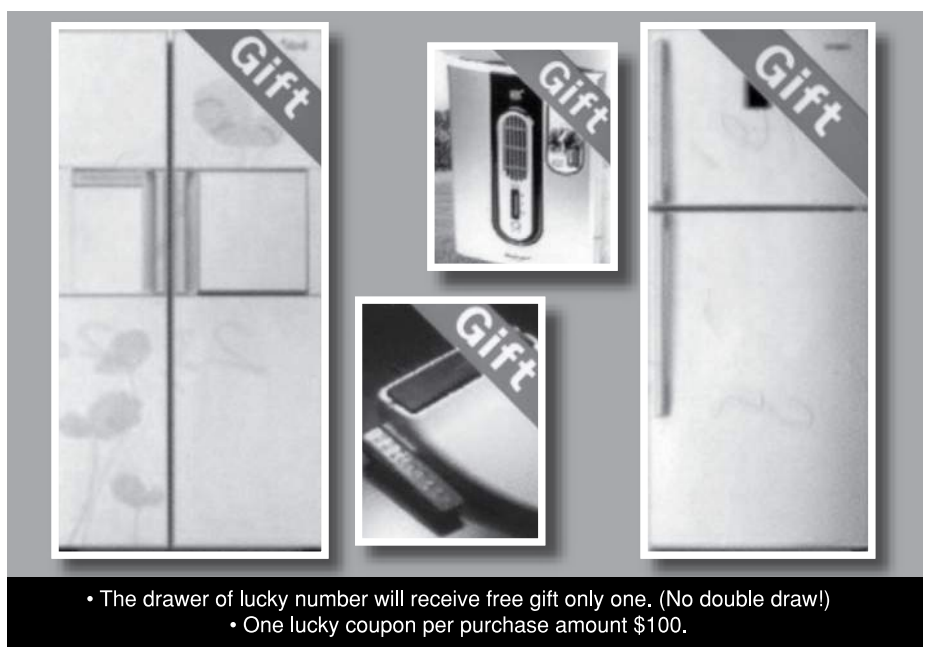

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EDITORIAL

Immigrant unrest in Italy

The United States has struggled with immigration and race since its founding, so it is easy to forget that these are relatively new issues for European states that were largely homogenous for centuries. We were reminded of this fact, however, when hundreds of African laborers rioted in southern Italy's Calabria region for three days last week after Italian youths fired an air rifle at a group of foreign farmworkers.

Italy exported its own citizens for years and only began to admit large numbers of guest workers in the 1980s and '90s. Since then, the foreign-born population has grown to at least 6.5 percent, and, like many of its neighbors in Europe, the Catholic country has been struggling to cope with xenophobia, cultural and religious pluralism, and the contentious politics of immigration.

The unrest in Calabria was not the first racial violence in the country, but it was the worst, with migrants burning cars and storefronts throughout the town of Rosarno and bands of Italians hunting down laborers to exact retribution; more than 50 people were injured in the skirmishes. The government moved in with bulldozers to raze many of the immigrants' housing encampments and transferred about 1,000 workers to other cities.

Most of the legal and illegal immigrants in the south pick citrus and vegetables, earning less than $30 a day. A part of that reportedly goes to pay mafia protection rackets, and some political observers believe that the riots were provoked by mafia enforcers seeking to drive out the workers in a bad economy. Regardless, the initial attacks tapped into a well of anger and frustration on the part of immigrants who feel they are exploited.

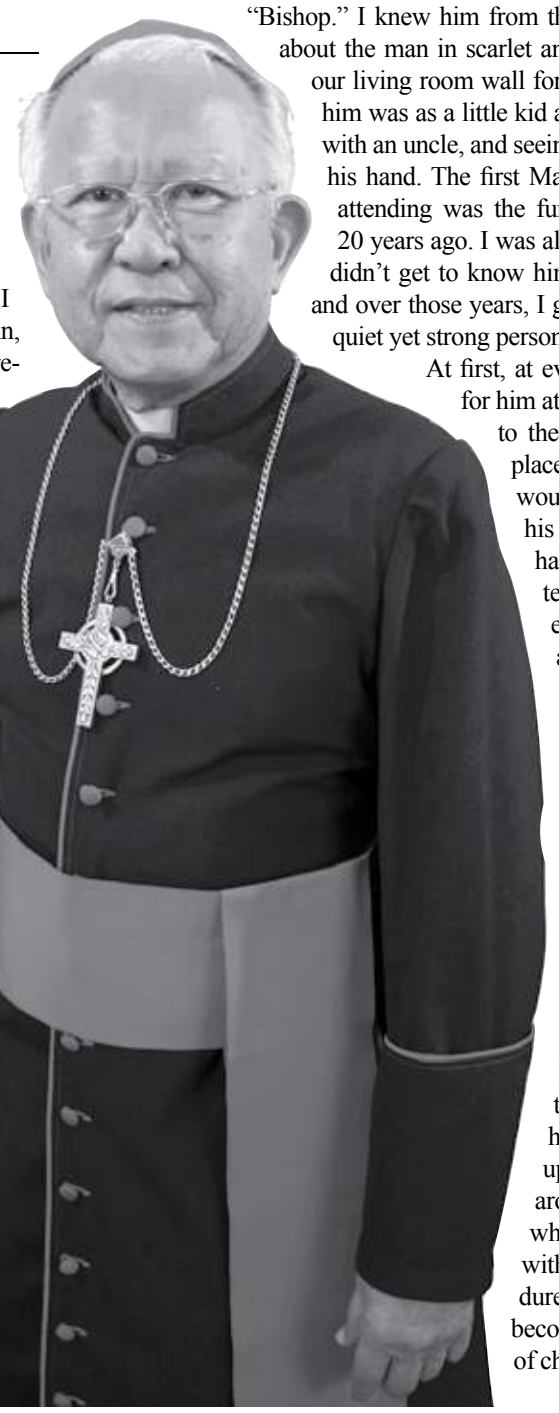
Italians have yet to figure out how to assimilate foreigners who not only work their fields but take care of their children and fill low-paying, menial jobs. The immigrants also sell knockoff Italian goods in illegal street markets and, as the economy has worsened, are blamed for many of the country's ills. Over the years, reactions have included campaigns against the building of mosques, against street-corner windshield cleaners and against lanterns outside Chinese restaurants. Immigrants earn lower unemployment benefits than Italians do, and children born to immigrants in Italy cannot become citizens until they reach the age of 18.

Unfortunately, the country lacks political leadership on these issues. The Interior Minister, from Italy's far-right Northern League party, simply blamed the rioting on years of tolerating illegal immigration. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, returning to work after four weeks recovering from an attack, has made no public comment about the disturbing racial violence. Perhaps that is because the riots highlighted the government's embarrassing lack of control over the mafia-dominated south.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times

Saina Ma'åse Siñot Obispo!

By LUIS JOHN CASTRO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



One of the memories I have as a child is of being fond of watching a certain program that was recorded on a videocassette. After that program, a switch to another recording brought the video to another program. The first thing I would see is a big cross being held in procession, the first sound I hear would be of a choir singing the church hymn, *Atan Bithen de Carmen*. At 9 years old, I didn't really think of what it was I was watching, so I never bothered to watch the whole thing.

What I do remember is that after the singing, a man with an unfamiliar accent made a speech and mentioned the name of Padre San Vitores, a name I remembered from reading history books and my Social Studies classes. I forget what he said, but a few years later I realized that the guy talking was a representative of the then Pope John Paul II, speaking to our islands' faithful of the magnitude of the event they were witnessing. The place these remarks were made was the soon to be Mt. Carmel Cathedral. The date was January 13, 1985, and the occasion the ordination of Msgr. Tomas Aguon Camacho, the first local born bishop of the then new Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, who along with our bishop celebrates its 25th anniversary this week.

This special event, held on the same day as San Vitores' feast of honor and remembrance of being the first to bring Christianity to the Marianas, brought me to recollect on some of the things I remember about this particular individual. Believe it or not, this video was not the first instance I ever came across the man we simply call "Bishop." I knew him from the first time I asked my parents about the man in scarlet and white whose picture hung on our living room wall for years. The first time I ever met him was as a little kid at a family party as he socialized with an uncle, and seeing him as a familiar face, I shook his hand. The first Mass he presided that I remember attending was the funeral of my grandmother some 20 years ago. I was always curious about the man and didn't get to know him until I became an altar server and over those years, I got more comfortable around his quiet yet strong persona.

At first, at every time I had to serve a Mass for him at our church, I was always scared to the point where I would freeze in place until the master of ceremonies would tell me when to go to pass him his miter or to proceed to wash his hands. Any butterflies in my system would soon dissipate, however, just from seeing his friendly approach to all of us. We served at so many of his Masses that our pastor at the time would actually teach us how to facilitate a liturgy he would preside over, to a point where we never experienced being nervous anymore. Learning how to serve the man taught all of us how to be professional in whatever we did.

Yet the thing that always made me look at Bishop Camacho in a special way was how, despite his high title, he never forgot the fact that he was still just like us. He had humble beginnings. He grew up in a big family and helped out around the house just like we did when we were kids. He had to deal with the growing pains all of us endured, along with all the hardships of becoming independent. He faced a lot of challenges, even during his time as

See SAINA on Page 11

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Flying coconuts and rented nukes

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Today I'm in minor awe of a business idea that hit the headlines. I just read about it. I'll call it Uncle Ivan's Rent-a-Nuke. Why didn't I think of it?

I guess I missed it because it was so obvious that is was, conceptually, invisible.

And it is just this type of droll paradox that is going to define the coming arms race in Saipan's general neighborhood. Obvious things are not obvious.

And, no doubt, there will be such an arms race, as our benefactor Uncle Sam simply runs out of the money, and even stature, to remain the strongest military presence in the Western Pacific. Asia is warming up to be a military free-for-all as nations adjust to the strategic vacuum that is going to result.

I'm not saying it is going to be a disorderly free-for-all. I'm not putting on a sour face and portending some sort of doom about it. An arms race doesn't mean hostilities will break out, well, not necessarily at least.

But it does mean that there is going to be a lot of opportunity in the Asian defense industry, and as soon as I perfect my Deluxe, Cold-Fusion Powered Coconut Catapult (flying coconuts have substantial drift problems in a cross-wind, unfortunately), I'm going to jump on two trends at once and become a magnate in Renewable, Organic, Eco-Friendly Artillery.

But enough about me. You probably haven't thought about India lately, just because everybody is talking about China all the time, but I'll mention that India and China are big-time military rivals.

And it's just this India that is reportedly going to be leasing a nuclear submarine from Russia. Yes, indeed, Rent-a-Nuke.

What a natural idea! Russia has the iron and the know how, and other places have the pocket money and the itch to get in the drivers' seat. A win-win, as the Yuppies say. I'll put a link to the story at SaipanBlog.com.

Nuclear warships are, as you might imagine, expensive propositions, so a leasing program allows an upwardly-mobile navy to enjoy the status of driving a modern model around the neighborhood without weighing down its balance sheet. It's sort a military version of those Reese's Peanut Butter Cup ideas, but instead of making a tasty concoction of an otherwise counterintuitive blend of chocolate and peanut butter, the Rent-a-Nuke guys have somehow blended a fleet admiral with a Certified Public Accountant.

Let's look at how these things can cascade. India is far away from Saipan and nobody here gives it a thought in the military context. But China is not far away, and is going to figure very prominently in the Commonwealth's future. To the extent that India's actions influence China's actions, India's actions are also influencing Saipan's long term context. One lone, leased submarine probably isn't going to change things, so I'm not trying to play Drama Queen. I'm merely trying to illustrate how, as the years move on, things can slowly shift as one thing (as the song says) leads to another. It's just a slow evolution of things.

A "nuclear" submarine, known in the U.S. Navy by the handy diminutive "nuke," means nuclear- powered, not necessarily nuclear-armed.

I think that India has leased subs from Russia before, so I'm not claiming that the current story is the first time in recorded history that somebody has leased some military gear from someone else. But, it's the first time I've paid attention to it in the recent nuclear context. Please excuse my inattention; I was distracted as I followed more important things, namely, the meteoric rise of Tila Tequila's career which, you must admit, might not be strategically significant, but is a whole lot more compelling.

That's enough about submarines, but it's good enough excuse to offer my broad theory: Asia's coming arms race is going to hold many little surprises. Asia is going to develop Asia's way, not the Western way, and every time the West ignores this fact, which is pretty much all the time, the surprises are, well, surprising.

Letter to the Editor

No such thing as fraud?

When the election results of the Northern Islands' mayor was announced, it was 68 votes for Mr. Tobias Aldan and 67 votes for Mrs. Ramona Rubuenog, plus one vote each absentee, thereby making the final count 69/68 in favor of Mr. Aldan.

Mrs. Rubuenog challenged these results and wanted a recount. After the recount, the tally remains 69/68. Still not satisfied with the recount, she seeks the help of a judge and, oh boy, did she get her wish granted. Not only for Christmas but also for the New Year. Now that the hearing is over, she is declared the mayor of the Northern Islands, with a vote of 64/62 leading over Mr. Aldan.

Now let's see how did Mrs. Rubuenog got her wish granted, and perhaps the next losing candidate for the Northern Islands mayor can follow in her footsteps when he or she is not satisfied with the official results.

Mrs. Rubuenog challenged 21 voters from the Northern Islands because she believed that they are illegal and should not be counted. So she takes the Board of Election and Mr. Aldan to court to prove that she was right. Therefore she must be declared the wining candidate. There were 21 alleged illegal voters subpoenaed by the plaintiff and her counsel, because she believed that all 21 voters voted for Mr. Aldan, causing her to lose by one vote. Furthermore, she believed that when these 21 voters are disqualified, she will have the largest number of voters to be declared the mayor of theNorthernn Island.

However after two days of trial, three of the eight witnesses that were called to the stand revealed in writing to the judge that they voted for Mrs.Rubuenog. This revelation did not go so well with Mrs. Rubuenog and her counsel toward the end of the day. So the following day, the procedure was changed from writing down who they voted for to verbally. An objection to this change was made by the defendant's counsel but was overruled because the judge said that a disqualified voter has no right to a secret ballot. OK, but even with this procedural change, the plaintiff is still behind in the count.

A shocking revelation by one of the 21 voters called to the stand was that she and three of her sisters were told by Mrs. Rubuenog to vote because there is no such thing as voter fraud. This voter testified that on the day of the election she had made up her mind not to vote because her uncle had told her days before the election that it's a fraud to vote while knowing she is not qualified to vote for the Northern Islands. However, on Election Day, Mrs. Rubuenog sent her daughter to this voter's house to take her and her three sisters to go and vote. Furthermore, she was also told not to worry because Mrs. Rubuenog will not be challenging their votes if she loses but Mr. Aldan will challenge their votes if he loses. So after this witness got off the stand, there was another change in the lineup of the witnesses. Now knowing that the three sisters might be voting for Mrs. Rubuenog, they were placed on the last of the list. In fact they were never called to the stand and I wonder why? As the court came to the end of the day, Mr. Aldan was still ahead in the count. It was clear that not all 21 voters voted for Mr. Aldan; some voted for Mrs. Rubuenog as well.

When court resumed after the weekend, another shocking and unbelievable change was made by the plaintiff and her counsel. This time members of the plaintiff's family were now added to the 21 original list of subpoenaed voters. These newly subpoenaed voters replaced the remaining eight original voters who were dismissed by the plaintiff's counsel. It was no surprise that the newly subpoenaed voters voted for Mr. Aldan—even though they were all related to the plaintiff and have *never* talked to and participated in any function and gatherings for Mr. Aldan. So after this desperate move by the plaintiff and her counsel, the plaintiff now managed to gain the lead over Mr. Aldan. Is this why the remaining eight original voters from the original 21 list were dismissed because now the plaintiff is ahead? How true is Mrs. Rubuenog's own saying that there's is no such thing as voter fraud?

Diego Sr. L. Kaipat
Dandan, Saipan

SAINA

From Page 10

a seminarian. But through all of those, he never gave up and always kept his focus on what he wanted to accomplish.

For a dignitary, he comes off as a very approachable figure at every occasion he shows up to, always eager to meet new faces—a trait similar to the pontiff who appointed him to his position—ever open to sharing a cup of coffee with old friends, and never hesitating to greet little children and other souls with his familiar way of saying "hello." Many kids find it interesting when he can instantly connect their family lineage just by the simple question of asking who their parents or grandparents were. Chances are he may have wed them or possibly baptized them. It is a trait that all of us have fondly noticed about our Bishop.

Throughout the decades he's served as a priest and in a quarter century as bishop, he has also kept close to his heart the importance in being there for our diocese's faithful, especially in times of sorrow, like a true father would for his children. Where some bishops leave it to parish priests to officiate funeral rites, Bishop Camacho tries his best to be present at almost every funeral held in the Diocese, keeping to the island tradition of coming together in times of bereavement, no matter who it may be.—a simple act appreciated not only by the family in mourning, but certainly also by the soul he offers prayers for.

We have also shared in his sadness, such as when his mother and sister passed away, and when he as a bishop, officiated over the funerals of such beloved priests as Msgr. Ben Martinez, Fr. Gary Bradley, and Fr. Roger Tenorio, men of faith that the Bishop always turned to when he needed advice and counsel, traits we have always looked to him for.

Despite being old fashioned, he has never lost the instinct of staying young at heart. Where some people his age barely know how to use a cell phone or even an ATM machine, he constantly keeps in contact with his fellow priests by texting them or e-mailing them with information he cannot pass to them in person. For many *manhoben*, he is the only bishop they have ever known. And when with them, no matter how old his body may get, the heart that beats inside him still remains vibrant and full of youth.

Bishop Camacho has also made it a point throughout the years to promote awareness of good health. He himself has stated that throughout the two decades he has been bishop he has rarely been sick, even considering common colds as a "minor malfunction." He has braved through many physical difficulties, including cancer, all with the prayers to God as well as the prayers of the faithful as his strength. And many times, he has stayed steadfast in maintaining peace and harmony in our community, by speaking up against vices hurting the community such as crime, racial intolerance, abortion, and encouraging us to come to decisions on hot issues such as casino gaming, staking his stance not just as a voice in the community, but as a citizen being affected by what goes on as well.

Traits such as these have, in turn, inspired many to be better individuals for our islands. Some people touched by this man have gone on to be civic leaders, pillars of education as well as leaders of our government. And what make them successful are the things they learned from their parents, who put their faith in one God, the same God we were taught to honor and respect by a strong yet humble man who carries on that promise that became his credo, "Fiat Voluntas Tua" (Thy will be done), so that every person who calls these islands home can learn to live life in peace, love, and happiness.

That video recording the bishop's ordination is long gone and the picture of the bishop I remember placed in our living room has faded. However, the respect that many of us have remains for the man who went from "goatherd to shepherd," who this week looks back with pride on the 25 years he has served as our spiritual rock of wisdom, counsel, and faith. As this bishop and this diocese turn silver, we celebrate the mission that he prayed in a little chapel to stay true to, and it has grown to inspire many generations of Catholics both young and old to stay true to their faith. Though the trials of time have now started to take their toll on him, the intercessions of the saints we pray to will continue to give him hope for all of us, even after his time as bishop ceases and a new person takes over to carry out the service he has given us in these 25 years.

So now we say to Bishop Camacho "inorabuena", and congratulations on the occasion of his silver anniversary of his ordination. May He whom he vowed to serve continue to give him good health and continued happiness now and in the years to come.

Saina Ma'åse Siñot Obispo yan si Yu'us infan binendise håo para todo i bidå-mu para hita ni man katolikon i sangkattan siha na islas Marianas yan todo ayo siha ni umågang i isla-ta iyon-ñiha. For all you do and all you've done, thank you.

Luis John Castro is a former speaker of the CNMI Youth Congress.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

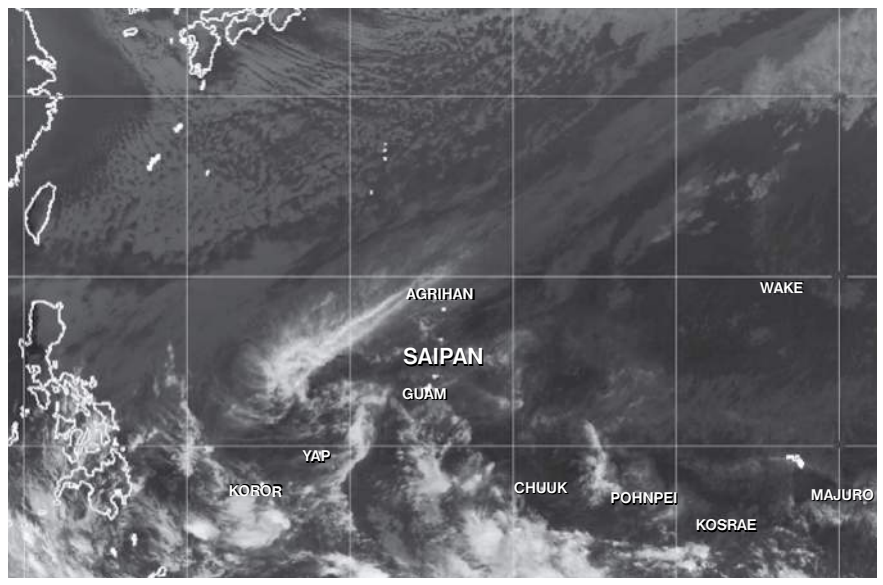
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Rain	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89 ▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼78
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼79
Majuro	Cloudy	▲83 ▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲28 ▼15
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲67 ▼58
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲78 ▼68
London	Cloudy	▲43 ▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74 ▼50
Manila	Showers	▲83 ▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲83 ▼63
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲45 ▼34
Osaka	Cloudy	▲41 ▼29
Paris	Cloudy	▲39 ▼31
Pusan	Cloudy	▲42 ▼24
Rome	Cloudy	▲51 ▼33
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▼37
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲55 ▼48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲29 ▼10
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲42 ▼25
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲50 ▼31

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N156E to 20N149 then continues as a shear line just northwest of Saipan to 16N145E to beyond 130E at 12N. Extensive clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of the cold front and along and up to 500 miles northwest of the shear line. Another shear line extends eastward from just east of Guam at 13N149E to just south of Enewetak at 10N163E to beyond 180 at 11N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 250 miles north of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E through weak circulations centered near 3N146E and 3N152E to end at EQ158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located just south of Palau south of a line from 6N130E to 7N136E to 46E. Scattered showers are south of Chuuk within 125 miles of a line from 8N145E to 5N150E. Trade wind convergence is triggering scattered shower and a few thunderstorms west of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line from 7N146E to 8N149E and south of Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 3N162E to 1N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:32 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	7:14 AM	6:54 PM
Sunday	7:52 AM	7:42 PM
Monday	8:29 AM	8:29 PM
Tuesday	9:29 AM	8:29 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2,3,4,5,6,7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7 via NRT
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3,6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:0pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4,6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Legacy of the 17th Legislature

Congratulations are in order for every newly elected member of the 17th Legislature and the community hopes your term is marked with success and prosperity for the people of the commonwealth.

Your opening challenge is to deliver the people a manageable budget. The current economy will force austerity measures, including salary cuts for friends, relatives, and neighbors, or worse, a looming reduction in forces. This economic climate and fairness demand you reduce the astronomical discretionary spending accounts in your control.

The State of Texas pays representatives (and senators) $600 per month or $7,200 per year and one senator there represents an average of 673,000 people. They are in session from 60 to 140 days a year. The 15,000 voters of the CNMI can't pay 29 lawmakers from $100,000 to $500,000 each in yearly unaccountable spending money in our crumbling economy, and to continue such squander is theft and fraud against the people here. Austerity in our Legislature is warranted and should be incorporated into the 2010 budget.

Historically, our Legislature was overfunded by the textile industry so that garment manufactures could dictate policy to our lawmakers in exchange for absolute loyalty. Garment revenues are gone, and there is no justification for CNMI senators receiving $500,000 per year in discretionary funny money, while friends, neighbors, relatives, and other government employees face layoffs and salary cuts.

This austerity measure will improve the Commonwealth by helping to make our government manageable and viable for the future. If you do not take action, a courageous local citizen will garner signatures and place this on the ballot, and the voters can again improve the CNMI, without legislative consent.

The 17th has already been baptized with an immediate and pressing decision to make. The CNMI governor has shamed the Commonwealth and kept us the laughingstock of America by removing a federal prisoner for a back rub or some service, so if you have one ounce of integrity, you will impeach the governor before he is indicted, but if your members are of little merit, history will hold you accountable for your inaction and ineptitude.

We sincerely wish the legacy of the 17th Legislature is marked with deep love and devotion to the future of the people here.

Ron Hodges
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Clarification

I write to clarify a misrepresentation in Ruth Tighe's letter printed in both *Marianas Variety* and *Saipan Tribune* last Friday, Jan. 8, 2010. Her main point was to thank everyone for thanking her. In doing so, however, she misstated that I had "crossed out my name" on the resolution. I did no such thing.

Ruth was given a framed copy of the resolution that had been altered by a frustrated individual, not by me. The tampered version she received should never have been given to her in the first place.

It was never my intention to slight Ms. Tighe's accomplishments, nor to praise her either, but simply to remain neutral. While I have reservations about many of her positions and activities, I bear her no ill will and did not attempt to embarrass her, or me, by crossing out my name off her wall trophy.

The correct version of the resolution, without my name as a signatory, is available at the Legislative Bureau Office should she care to replace the bogus copy she now has.

Rep. Stanley Tudela Mcginnis Torres
16th (now 17th Legislature)
Capital Hill, Saipan

Being the change

Strengthening our families is one way we can be the change we want to see in the CNMI. Families form the core of our society, and they should be at the forefront of efforts to improve the quality of life for all of the people of the CNMI. Whether you'd like to help families recover from illicit drug abuse, combat underage drinking, find loving, permanent homes for foster children, feed the hungry or give those in need the tools they need to get back on their feet, we should all be a staunch ally of our families.

I am a parent of one child and second parent to many in the private school I teach, so I know firsthand that parents want nothing more than a better life for their children. "It is easier to build strong children than to fix broken adults," so said Duke Aiona, and nothing will be more important than the safety and well-being of our children. In difficult situations, family, faith and community are often at the heart of the welfare of our people. These factors are the most effective and ideal mechanisms for remedying many of society's problems. Will you put your support for our families front and center? Will you ensure they remain at the forefront of our efforts to improve life in the CNMI?

Jeaniffer Hiponia Cubangbang
Honolulu, HI

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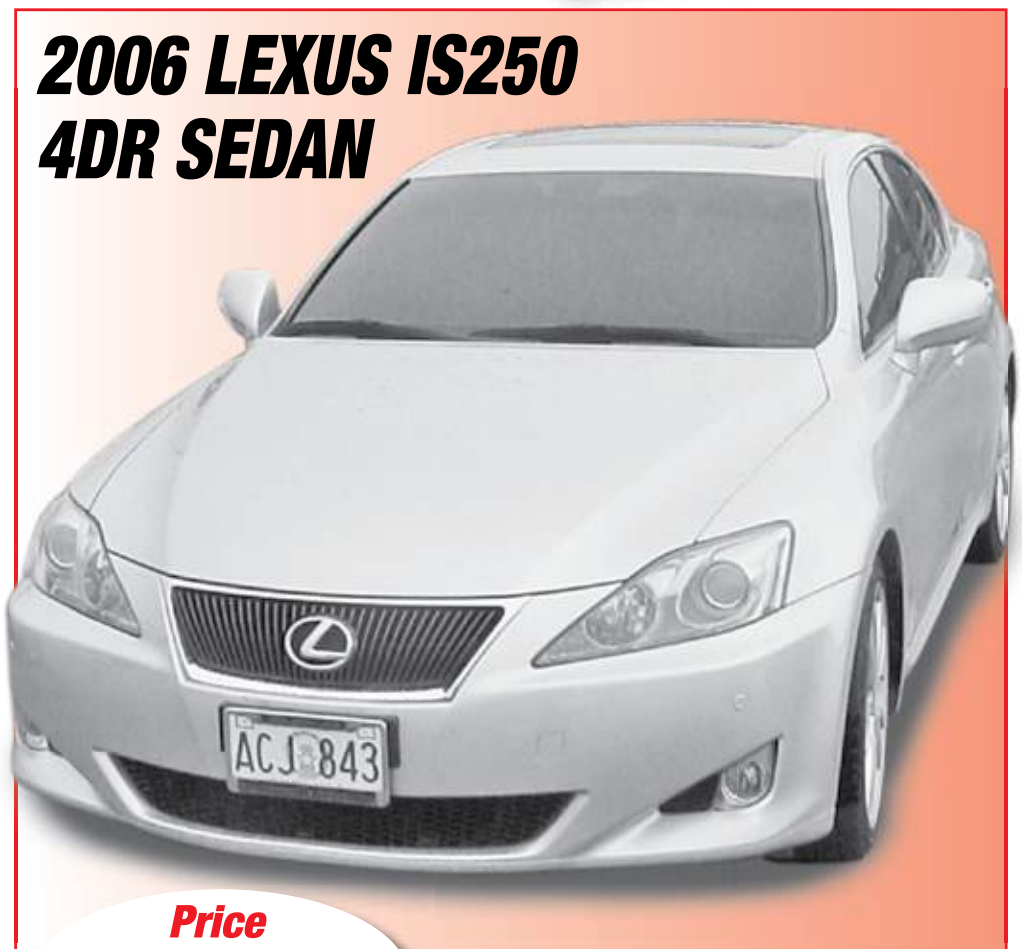

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Interior's Babauta approves $1.2M for the CNMI

Re-allocation of $1.9M in Compact funding OK'd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta signed yesterday afternoon almost $1.2 million in grant funding for the CNMI, $800,000 of which will be used to produce a water and wastewater master plan to comply with a federal stipulated order.

Babauta signed the federal grant funding in the presence of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula, Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, and other officials in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

While $800,000 of the close to $1.2 million will go to the development of a water and wastewater master plan, the rest will go toward the browntree snake interdiction program.

Babauta, at the same time, approved Fitial's request for the CNMI to re-allocate to six agencies over $1.93 million in Compact Impact funding awarded to the Northern Marianas in Fiscal Year 2010.

Most or almost $1.16 million of the re-allocated amount will go to the Department of Public Safety.

The rest will be divided among five agencies: $414,453 to the Department of Public Health; $154,698 to the Department of Corrections; $122,291 to Northern Marianas College; $44,616 to the Division of Youth Services; and $37,151 to the Office of the Public Defender.

The CNMI Public School System has secured additional federal funding through the U.S. Department of Education's State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, and that the CNMI's Compact Impact funding can be re-allocated among local departments as a result.

Babauta

Babauta and Pula arrived in the CNMI early this week to attend Fitial and Inos' inaugural festivities. This is Babauta's first trip to the CNMI since the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment as assistant Interior secretary for insular affairs last year.

He said he wants to ensure that federal laws that have recently been applied to the Northern Marianas are done in a "very smooth and flexible manner" to help in the development of the CNMI.

"The Department of the Interior and the federal government and Interagency Working Group will try to assist the Northern Mariana Islands and its leaders in developing a more prosperous future," he said.

He added that Fitial, who is the only CNMI governor to serve a five-term in his second term in office, has "five years to make some very necessary steps forward to make a lot of progress."

"I hope to be a part of that and I hope to have a very good working relationship with the governor. We may not always agree on certain issues and how matters will be resolved but I think between the two of us, we agree we can always talk to each other and try to find some middle ground on how to move forward," Babauta said.

Fitial said he believes in communication. "And effective communication involves emphatic listening. So I will be very emphatic when I listen to you talk," he added.

Babauta said he will do the same. He then went on to say that while he was in Washington, D.C., he learned that the Fitial administration needed some money to address consent orders by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, specifically the development of a plan for the CNMI's water and wastewater system.

He said that the Interior strives for the preservation of culture, the environment, and natural species. Thus, it's also funding the brown tree snake interdiction program on Saipan, Tinian and Rota for over $300,000.

Babauta returned from Rota yesterday morning with Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) and other lawmakers to tour the island, as well as the bird sanctuary which he described as a "marvelous location."

"It's beautiful to see the native species of birds in their environment. They're thriving; certainly something that we don't want threatened with extinction should the brown tree snake cross over from Guam. Guam's experience has been horrible, and we don't want that to happen anywhere else," he said.

In an interview later, Babauta said the Interior has strong requirements on how federal money should be spent. "There's an ongoing audit of all money that we give them," he added.

NMI spends $9.3M in ARRA funds in 2 quarters

'Fraud cases mostly pertain to misinformation from bidders'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipanbtribune.com
REPORTER

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada disclosed yesterday that the CNMI closed the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2010 with a total of $9.3 million in federal stimulus fund spent so far.

In a news briefing yesterday, he revealed that only $1.3 million from the stimulus account was spent in the first quarter of the year, but this increased by $8 million in the second quarter.

At the same time, Ada acknowledged that there are some potential fraud cases that are being reviewed and investigated by both the Office of the Attorney General and the U.S. Inspector General's Office.

To date, Ada said, only one company has been formally referred to the OAG and the Inspector General, which will make the determination if prosecution is necessary.

Ada

Ada said the "fraud" cases pertain to "misinformation" provided by bidders and not about misspending any stimulus money.

"It's a fraud committed against the government, not committed by the government. The CNMI has a significant level of transparency in using ARRA funds," he told reporters.

Last Wednesday, Fred Camacho, the CNMI ARRA office's IT and communications manager said in an interview and e-mail statement that multiple cases of potential fraud have been uncovered by his office and investigations are ongoing.

These potential cases, he said, surfaced after the Inspector General made a presentation about ARRA funds.

Ada yesterday said that the community has nothing to worry about because these fraud cases deal with bidders or contractors who submitted false documentations and information.

"Although we got a company being investigated by the AG, we believe that we can catch a little more as more bids are coming out. We're just hoping that this will serve as a warning to all people who want to do business with the government. We will check your backgrounds," Ada said.

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Red flag up at 13 Saipan beaches

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on 13 beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Fiesta Resort drainage, Hafa-Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach drainage, Chalan Piao Beach, and Hopwood School Beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from 38 locations on Saipan every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcement to all Palauan citizens

The scheduled meeting for all Palauans in the CNMI has been postponed to Jan. 23, 2010. Time and place to be announced later. Contact Rufino Aguon-483-6232 or Eileen Kintol 288-7538 for further information. ***(PR)***

Gear up for MMAC 2010; Team Captain meeting set

The first Team Captains meeting for MMAC 2010 has been set for Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room.

Last year, 13 teams worked hard to raise money for cancer awareness, education and patient support for the Commonwealth Cancer Association. This year, teams will unite once again as we journey as one community to help bring hope to our family and friends currently battling cancer.

Teams can consist of families, friends, non-profit or for profit organizations, schools, etc. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in fielding a team, please contact Reina Camacho at 2857677or send an email to MMAC2010@googlegroups.com. ***(PR)***

Special small craft advisory

Based on the information received from National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the CNMI Emergency Management Office is informing the public that high pressure building north of the region will bring fresh to strong trade winds and hazardous areas to the Marianas.

Small craft advisory in effect Friday, from 6am to 6pm. Seas 10 feet or greater and sustained winds of 22 knots or higher are expected to produce conditions hazardous to small craft.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. ***(EMO)***

Canary Walk-a-thon this Saturday

The annual Canary Walk-a-thon will be held this Saturday, Jan. 6, at the San Vicente Elementary School Softball Field.

The event starts at 7am and will conclude at 12pm. According to organizers the fundraising event will benefit SVES' with the purchase of new playground equipment as well as promote health and wellness.

Participants will receive a free event T-shirt with their $15 pledge. Prizes will also be given for most laps and highest pledges collected Raffle prizes, community booths, games, and other activities will also be available. ***(PR)***

Kagman High PTSA meeting set

To all Kagman High School parents/guardians, there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, from 6pm to 7pm at the school's cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon today

Puengin Inetnon will be held today, Jan. 15, 2010, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. This week's vendors feature Sugar Shack, Lynns Barbeque, Fong's Bakery, Champs Shave Ice, U2 Collections, and The Library Bookmobile.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun, right here in Kagman. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 for applications. ***(PR)***

Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be held tomorrow, Jan. 16, 2010, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call 256-7678 for more info. ***(PR)***

Election Commission cancels Rota meeting

The Commonwealth Election Commission said that its scheduled meeting on Jan. 13, 2010, at the Rota Hotel on Rota, was cancelled until further notice. Anyone requiring other information may call the commission's office at 664-VOTE (8683) or by sending electronic mail to info@votecnmi.gov.mp or executivedirector@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Adult Basic Education Spring 2010 Calendar

The Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education program, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services, has announced the following academic dates for the Spring 2010 Semester:

- Registration for Returning Students: Jan 25-26, 10am-6pm, ABE
- Registration for New Students: Jan 27-28, 10am-6pm, ABE
- Late Registration: Jan 29 and Feb 2, 9am-4pm, ABE
- Student Orientation: Feb 1, 5pm-6:30pm, D-1
- Add/Drop for Students: Feb 3-12, 8am-5pm, ABE

First Day of Instruction:

- MWF Classes: Feb 3 (Wednesday)
- TTh Classes: Feb 4 (Thursday)
- Sat. Classes: Feb 6
- Sun. Classes: Feb 7
- Last Day of Instruction: April 30

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the ABE Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723 or 1724. ***(NMC)***

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CNMI to commemorate 4th MLK Jr. holiday on Monday

Monday, Jan. 18, 2010 marks the fourth official CNMI-wide observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a national holiday.

The African American Cultural Preservation Committee of the CNMI is inviting the general public to come out to the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center at 1pm to participate in and experience its annual MLK exhibit, schedule of events, forums, poster contest and keynote speaker to promote this year's theme of "Where Do We Go From Here," taken from Dr. King's 1967 speech of the same title.

"It is fitting to reflect on and be mindful that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for and continues to symbolize nonviolence, and peace and justice for all regardless of social, economic, religious or national origin or status. The tenets and principles of nonviolence must begin and be practiced starting in the home," said Joe Hill, AACPC president. "The schedule of events, forum on cultural diversity, domestic violence and equality of women, student presentations and other activities are designed as educational tools, open to all who value Dr. King's tenets of non-violent, positive social change."

This year's program and activities include a forum on cultural and domestic violence, the students' (K-12) CNMI-wide MLK Poster Contest, as well as the keynote program.

"We ask that people make MLK Day "A Day On, Not A Day Off," Hill added.

Of special note this year will be a unique collection of historical MLK memorabilia belonging to the private collection of University of Guam professor Marilyn Jackson. These will be on display at the Visitor's Center from Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, through Monday, Jan. 18, 2010.

The AACPC's MLK Day 2010 schedule of events:

- Student Poster Contest, ongoing;
- Dr. Jackson's MLK Collection, ongoing;
- Forum: "Cultural Diversity, Domestic Violence & Equality Of Women," Visitor's Center, American Memorial Park Theater, Monday, Jan. 18, 2010, starting at 2pm;
- Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, Speaker, 3:30pm.
- Keynote Address, Professor Felix Asade, 4:15pm.

Call 234-6806 for further details. Visit www.blacksonsaipan.com or e-mail mlkcontest@welovesaipan.com for information on the poster contest. ***(PR)***

In this file photo Martin Luther King, Jr. waves to the crowd after delivering a speech in Washington D.C.

Local Census Office launches student poster contest

The CNMI Local Census Office launched yesterday the 2010 CNMI Census Student Poster Contest for all CNMI public and private school students. The deadline to submit entries is Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students and their schools.

Students will be asked to design a poster that meets the following criteria:

- Poster that describes "What the CNMI Census means to you and your community."
- Highly encouraged to use the Theme: 2010 CNMI Census, It's in Our Hands.
- The use of symbols and CNMI-related themes are encouraged
- Designs can be either hand-drawn or computer generated
- Design must fit on 8.5x11 letter size paper
- Original artwork only, no copyrighted materials and only one design per student

There will be three categories by grade level:

- Category 1 is Kindergarten - 6th Grade;
- Category 2 is 7th-8th grade; and
- Category 3 is 9th – 12th Grade.

Prizes will be $200 for first place, $100 for second place and $50 for third place in each category for the student (or students if a group) and $500 for the school (for first place winner only) in each category.

Winning designs will be used by the CNMI Census to promote and highlight the 2010 Census in the CNMI through the media and Census partners. Winning posters will be used in a variety of ways for the awareness campaign, the reminder campaign and the thank you campaign.

In addition to the design, students will fill out an entry form with their name, school, grade and phone number. The entry also asks two questions. "Why is the Census important to the CNMI?" and "What does the Census theme mean to you?" All entries will be on display in the CNMI Local Census Office after the contest is concluded. Winners will be notified in mid-February.

ON THE WEB

http://www.commerce.gov.mp

CONTACT INFO

Local Census Office: 288-3027/23

Entry forms are available on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp or can be picked up at the Local Census Office. Entry forms will also be sent to all CNMI schools via e-mail. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 8am—5pm and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information, call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23. ***(PR)***

Calling all cancer survivors in the CNMI

With the growing number of cancer survivors in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Cancer Association is embarking on a series of get-together as a form of a support group.

These gatherings will touch on various topics as it relates to cancer and offer people facing cancer an avenue to meet in similar circumstances, to exchange information about cancer and its treatment as well as offer encouragement to one another; to share other ways and means to coping with the disease; and most importantly to develop new relationships with other cancer survivors. We will also share benefits of a survivor associated with diagnosis, treatment, comfort measures, nutritional supplements, wound-care products, etc.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting all survivors to a first meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room at 5pm. Contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at commonwealthcancerassociation@gmail.com or at 236-8728 to confirm your attendance.

"We sincerely welcome you all and looking forward to meeting with you," the group said in a statement.

Prospective attendees may also contact the following cancer survivors: Bobbi Grizzard at 322-9464; Maggie Camacho at 287-6222/664-3044; or Nora Sablan at 235-0997 or send an email to norasablan@gmail.com.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is a non-profit organization that provides assistance to cancer patients in the CNMI of up to $500 per year for qualifying expenses such as items and wigs. CCA does not cover medication or surgical procedures, radiation or chemotherapy. ***(PR)***

TWINS SUPERMARKET

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PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

- Diamond G Rice $29.99 50 LBS. / $13.99 20 LBS.
- AAA Elephant Rice $24.99 50 LBS
- Brown Rice/ Sweet Rice $4.99 5 LBS
- Chicken Leg Quarter LIMIT 2 $20.99 33 LBS. / $15.99 22 LBS.
- Pork Spareribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 20 LBS.
- Baby Ribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 /CASE
- Young Whole Chicken LIMIT 2 $33.99 30 LBS.
- Bar S Smoked Sausage $5.99 3 LBS.
- U.S. Eggs Extra Large $1.99 LIMIT 4 DOZ. /DOZ.
- Tyson Anytizer All Kinds $3.99 12 OZ.
- Hot Pockets/ Lean Pockets 2 for $6.00 1 12 OZ.
- Treasure Cave Blue Cheese $2.59 4 OZ.
- Vega Shrimp $4.99 1 LB. LIMIT 6
- Green Mussels $3.99 2 LB. LIMIT 1
- Salad Oil $23.99 5 GALLON
- El Monterey Spicy Beef Enchiladas 40 OZ. $7.99
- Folgers Coffee $9.99 33.9 OZ.
- Butane Gas LIMIT 2 CASES $19.99 /CASE

FRESH MEATS • FROZEN FOODS • PRODUCE

- Miller Sausage $14.99 5 LBS.
- Ground Beef $9.99 5 LBS. / $16.99 10 LBS.
- Beef Rib Finger $2.99 /LB
- Ground Pork $2.39 1 LB. / $16.99 10 LBS.
- Chopped Ham $8.99 5 LBS. / $15.99 10 LBS.
- Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.09 /PKG LIMIT 2
- Bar S Bacon $2.49 /PKG.
- Hoffy Portugese Sausage $1.99 /PKG.
- Lamb Shoulder Roll $4.99 1 LB.
- Beef Patties $3.99 3 LBS.
- Pork Loin Boneless $2.99 1 LB.
- T-Bone Steak $3.99 /LB.
- Totino's All Kinds $1.99 10.2 OZ.
- Totino's Pizza Rolls $8.99 44.5 OZ.
- TJ Farm's Select Hash Brown $1.99 24 OZ.
- Oscar Mayer Ham $3.29 6 OZ.
- Bar S Smoked Deli Ham $2.99 12 OZ.
- Mackerel Pike $20.99 22 LBS.
- Tilapia 99¢ /LB / $37.99 /CASE
- Milkfish $1.49 /LB
- Cucumber 39¢ /LB.
- Broccoli $1.99
- Cabbage 79¢ /LB.
- Onion 59¢ /LB.
- Garlic (4 pcs.) 89¢ /LB.
- Potato (Jumbo) 79¢ /LB.
- Orange 89¢ /LB.
- Banana 99¢ /LB.
- Gala Apple Cello Fuji Apple Cello $3.99
- Watermelon 59¢ /LB.

CANNED GOODS • BEVERAGES • SNACKS • GROCERY ITEMS • FROZEN FOODS

- Spam (All Flavors) $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Tulip Luncheon Meat $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Hormel Corned Beef Hash $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Black Label $1.39 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Hormel Chili No Beans $1.99
- Master A1 Tuna 99¢ LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ace Diamond Tuna $1.19 LIMIT 6 CANS
- Ligo Sardines 3 for $1.00
- Century Tuna (All Flavors) 79¢ EACH
- Dinty Moore Beef Stew 40 OZ. $3.99
- Palm Corned Beef 11.5 OZ. $2.79
- Maggi Magic Sarap Seasoning 12 Sachets/Pack $1.00
- Knorr Carb & Corn Soup 60 g. $1.25
- Chicken Noodle 99¢ /PACK
- Sugar 99¢ 1 KG. / $1.79 2 KG.
- Kikkoman $3.99 1.6 L LIMIT 6 BTL.
- Kimchee Base $4.99 450G
- Lemon Powder $4.99 /CASE
- Excellent Flour /Rice Stick 99¢
- Chorizzos $25.99 LIMIT 1
- AVO Vegetable Oil $6.99 1 GALLON
- Datu Puti Vinegar $2.99 1 GALLON
- Silver Swan Soy Sauce $2.99 1 GALLON
- Anchor Fresh Milk $15.99 /CASE
- Real Fresh Milk 1 L $19.99 /CASE
- Maseca Flour $3.99 5 LBS.
- Hungarian Flour $2.75 5 LBS.
- Kraft Real Mayo $9.99 1 GALLON
- Ichiban $8.99 /BOX
- Korean Bowl Noodle $7.99 /CASE
- Golden Creme Ice Cream All Flavor 1.6 LR. $4.99
- Vlassic Dill Pickles $5.99 WHOLE / $6.99 SLICE
- Kraft Shredded Cheese Al Kinds 8 OZ. $3.50
- Kraft Cool Whip Al Kinds 8 OZ. $1.99
- Kraft Parmesan Cheese 16 OZ. $2.99
- Tillamook Swisscheese 1 LB. $4.50
- Shredd's Spread Country Crock 15 OZ. $3.29
- Blue Bonnet Butter 16 OZ. $1.50
- Springfield String Cheese 16 OZ. $4.99 16 PCS.
- Tabasco 12 OZ. $6.99
- Coffee Mix $6.99 LIMIT 1 100 STICKS
- Seok Water $4.99 /CASE
- Sunkist Juice $5.99 /CASE LIMIT 1
- Coke (All Flavors) WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $12.99 /CASE
- Pepsi (All Flavors) WARM ONLY $13.99 /CASE
- Hite / Max Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $14.99 /CASE
- Budweiser/Bud Light Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $24.99 /CASE

NON-FOOD

- Tide Detergent $3.99 2.8 KG. / $6.99 5 KG.
- Gain Powder LIMIT 2 $15.99 120 LOADS
- Gain Liquid Detergent (All Kind) 50 OZ. $4.99 LIMIT 2
- Joy Dishwashing $5.99 90 OZ.
- Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT $6.99 LIMIT 1
- Luv's Big Box (All Sizes) $17.99 3, 4, 5, 6
- Clorox $3.29 3 QR.
- Bounty Paper Towel $18.99 15 ROLLS
- Table Napkin $3.99 400 COUNT
- Dawn Dishwashing $7.99 90 OZ.
- Charmin Tissue $6.99 24 ROLLS
- Toilet Tissue $2.99 10 ROLLS

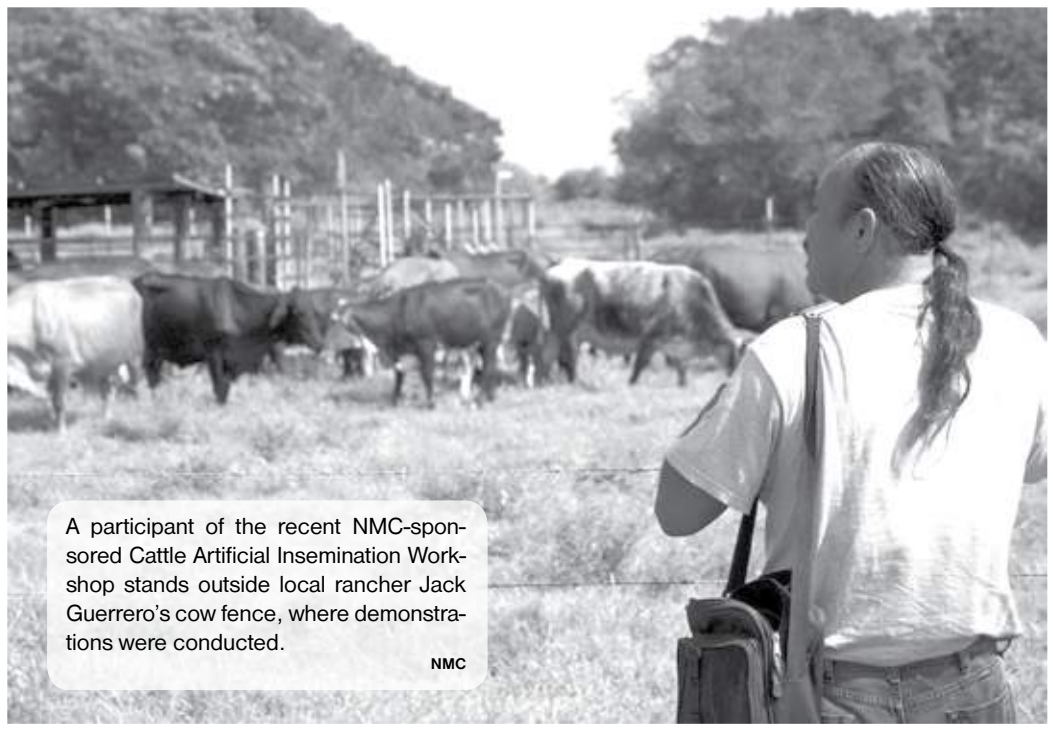
FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	$8.99	Beef Backribs	$7.99
Pork Belly	$10.99	Beef Shortribs	$13.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99	Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99	Quarter Leg s	$5.99
Pork Chops	$10.99	Beef Ribeye Steak	$15.99
Beef Stew	$13.99	Flank Steak	$17.99

Community invited to attend agriculture workshop

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free four-day workshop to showcase the various sustainable agriculture projects open to farmers in the western Pacific region. The workshop will also feature agricultural and aquacultural presentations and demonstrations from experts at NMC, the College of Micronesia, the University of Guam, and the University of Hawaii.

The workshop, which will be held at the Saipan World Resort on Jan. 26-29, 2010, is funded by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, a program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture aimed at supporting farm and ranch systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities. It is open to the public.



A participant of the recent NMC-sponsored Cattle Artificial Insemination Workshop stands outside local rancher Jack Guerrero's cow fence, where demonstrations were conducted.

NMC

Topics to be discussed at the workshop include herbal preparations, livestock feed grants, local feed formulation, pest control, genetic upgrading, artificial insemination, and farmer and rancher grants from Western SARE. Former CNMI recipients of grants will also be sharing their experiences with the funds and services provided by Western SARE.

"We have been conducting many mini-workshops at the College in preparation for the upcoming session," said NMC's animal scientist Dr. Allan Sabaldica. "I look forward to meeting with fellow agricultural experts from around the region and sharing our expertise with the local farming and ranching community."

Some highlights of the workshop involve field trips to the NMC aquaculture facility at its As Terlaje campus, a cattle ranch, and a local swine farm. At the NMC facility, participants will be treated to the many methods and equipments used by college staff. Participants will also engage in artificial insemination demonstrations at the cattle and swine farms.

"I would like to encourage the CNMI farming and ranching community to avail of this free workshop," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "Professionals from all over the western Pacific region will be on-site to help individuals prepare for and acquire necessary grants to jumpstart any agricultural business ventures."

Due to limited seating, individuals interested in attending the workshop must register by Jan. 21, 2010, with Selina Mesa at 234-5498 ext. 1708. ***(NMC)***

NMC graduate returns as instructor

The Northern Marianas College recently hired one of its alumni to serve as an instructor at the institution's School of Education.

Amanda Angel, a graduate of NMC, began NMC's registration week by advising students at the School of Education offices in Building T. Starting Tuesday, she will be teaching a number of courses, such as Introduction to Computers for Teachers, Multicultural Foundations, and several other courses focused on practicing teaching methods.

Angel graduated magna cum laude with her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from NMC in 2006 and has been a 5th grade teacher at William S. Reyes Elementary School since then. She then received her master's in International Teaching from Framingham State College in 2008. While still a student at NMC, Angel was actively involved in tutoring fellow students in math and English.

"I am honored to have been selected for this position," said Angel, who maintains a serious commitment to ensuring the progress and success of her students. "I look forward to working closely with my colleagues and my students to develop as fruitful a semester as possible."

While a teacher in the Public School System, Angel attended many professional development workshops geared towards effective classroom management. Some of the topics covered included ESL teaching strategies, behavior modification and planning, diverse classroom management strategies, and curriculum mapping.

"We are pleased to welcome Amanda to the NMC family," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "We are also excited to have a graduate return and share her expertise with current students."

The School of Education currently offers a bachelor's degree in elementary education. The College is moving forward with a proposal to also offer a program in early childhood and special education. These proposals will need to be approved by the accrediting commissions.

Amanda Angel

Registration for the Spring 2010 semester is still ongoing. For more information, visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC registration extended to Jan. 19

The Northern Marianas College, in its efforts to accommodate students who still have not registered for the Spring 2010 semester, has extended registration to Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010, from 9am to 5pm.

Registration on this date will be limited to students who have an English and math placement level. Admission applications for those who have already taken both placement tests will also be accepted on this date.

Students registering on Jan. 19 should visit the Financial Aid Office, Office of Admissions & Records, and Finance Office, all in Building N, to process their registration forms after meeting with an academic adviser.

In addition, regular registration will continue through Friday, Jan. 15, from 9am to 6pm, and Saturday, Jan. 16, from 9am to 12pm.

NMC offers a bachelor's degree in elementary education, as well as associate's degrees in liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, business administration (with emphasis in accounting, sales and marketing, computer applications, etc.), hospitality management, criminal justice, and more.

For more information, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1524, e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Advanced happy second birthday to Santino Joshua "Chunky" Camacho-Limes! We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mommy, and the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to the newlyweds, David John Apatang and Chasmyn Toni Santos, who got married on Jan 14, 2010. "We love you and we are very happy for you! May the Lord be with you and your hubby. May you live as long as you wish and love as long as you live. We love you and God bless you, sis! From your favorite sister Dionicia Hosono "Don" and the entire family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE U.S. ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND

Seeks office space along Beach Road or in Garapan, Saipan for a Recruiting Office.

The Army requires approx. 760 rentable square feet (RSF), to include a private restroom, two (2) reserved parking stalls for Government vehicles 24/7, located on a major thoroughfare, with good potential for exposure and signage.

Lessor/Landlord must be willing to use the U. S. Government lease and terms and perform any required build out on a reimbursable basis in accordance with the Government specifications.

If interested, please reply and include the following information: contact information; your affiliation with the lease space; RSF available; street address and unit number of lease space; and confirmation that the Lessor/Landlords is willing and able to use the U. S. Government Lease and perform the necessary build out.

Please send the requested information to the following by 5:00PM, January 22, 2010, to USACE, Real Estate, Bldg. 230, Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440 or FAX (808) 438-1328. Send your email responses to Larry.D.Degroot@usace.army.mil. You will be contacted upon receipt of your information.

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 500470 Saipan. MP 96950-0470
Tel: (670) 664.VOTE / Fax: (670) 664-8689
http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at the Mayor's Conference room on Liyo, Rota. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
- a. Roll call
- b. Adoption of Agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business
- a. Election of Officers
- b. Initial Review of Election Statute

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

Business

Consumer chief warns: Take cheap jewelry from kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The country's top product safety regulator warned parents and caretakers Wednesday to take cheap metal jewelry away from children out of concern they could be exposed to toxic heavy metals such as lead and cadmium.

Writing in a blog posted Wednesday evening, the chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission noted that children who chew, suck on or swallow a bracelet charm or necklace may be endangering their health.

"I have a message for parents, grandparents and caregivers: Do not allow young children to be given or to play with cheap metal jewelry, especially when they are unsupervised," wrote Inez Tenenbaum, the chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. "We have proof that lead in children's jewelry is dangerous and was pervasive in the marketplace. To prevent young children from possibly being exposed to lead, cadmium or any other hazardous heavy metal, take the jewelry away."

AP

In this Dec. 17, 2009 photo, Jeff Weidenhamer, professor of chemistry at Ashland University, holds a "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", charm in Ashland, Ohio.

In making the recommendation, Tenenbaum cited an investigation by The Associated Press which reported high cadmium levels in items including bracelet charms from Walmart and Claire's stores.

Fed: Recovery spreads but doesn't spur hiring

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economic recovery is spreading to more parts of the country even as a growing number of people can't find full-time jobs.

The duality of the recovery is underscored in a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday: The economy is growing, and the recovery is extending its reach geographically. Yet 27 million people are either unemployed, forced into part-time jobs or so discouraged that they've stopped looking for work.

The Fed said that while the economy is still sluggish, conditions have improved modestly. But it also said the job market in most of the Fed's 12 regions remained "soft" as the new year began.

In a worse-than-expected report last week, the government said companies chopped 85,000 jobs in December.

Record year for foreclosures as unemployment

MIAMI (AP)—A record 2.8 million households were threatened with foreclosure last year, and that number is expected to rise this year as more unemployed and cash-strapped homeowners fall behind on their mortgages.

The number of households that received a foreclosure-related notice rose 21 percent from 2008, RealtyTrac Inc. reported Thursday. One in 45 homes were sent a filing, which includes default notices, scheduled foreclosure auctions and bank repossessions.

In December, more than 349,000 households, or one in 366 homes, were hit with a foreclosure-related notice. That represents a 14 percent spike from November and a 15 percent jump from December 2008.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Google's decision on China traces back to founders

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page have always said they put their principles before profit, even to the point of using their control of the company to take a stand. The billionaires' idealism underlies a potentially expensive decision disclosed this week: Google's threat to leave China's rapidly growing Internet market in defense of free speech and its users' privacy rights. It's a bold move unlikely to be made without the explicit support of Page and Brin, given the possible fallout. Departing the world's most populous country could slow Google's earnings growth and weigh on its stock.

Panel to hear about effort against financial crime

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General Eric Holder on Thursday will tell a panel investigating the financial crisis that the Justice Department is using "every tool at its disposal" to fight the financial crimes that contributed to the meltdown and could cause another. According to prepared remarks, Holder will say the fight against economic crime is part of a broader strategy to "foster confidence in our financial system, integrity in our markets and prosperity for the American people." Holder will highlight the work of a new, interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force created by President Barack Obama to coordinate efforts between the Justice Department and other agencies.

Oil rises to near $80 as traders eye rising stocks

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices inched to near $80 a barrel Thursday in Asia as rising stock markets ahead of fourth quarter earnings cheered crude investors. Benchmark crude for February delivery was up 27 cents to $79.92 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, the contract gave up $1.14 to settle at $79.65.

H1N1 VACCINE SCHOOL VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

DPH WILL BE BACK AT THE SCHOOLS TO ADMINISTER THE 2ND DOSE OF THE H1N1 VACCINE TO STUDENTS 9 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER

Students and school staff who want to receive their H1N1 vaccine for the first time can also get in line!

Consent forms are available at the school office. Turn in signed consent forms back to school before your vaccination date!

SCHOOL VACCINATION SCHEDULE

January 20th – Wednesday
Dandan Head Start
San Antonio Head Start
WSR Head Start

January 21st – Thursday
Kagman Head Start
Oleai Head Start

January 22nd – Friday
Garapan Head Start
Tanapag Head Start

January 27th – Wednesday
Kagman Elementary School
Garapan Elementary School

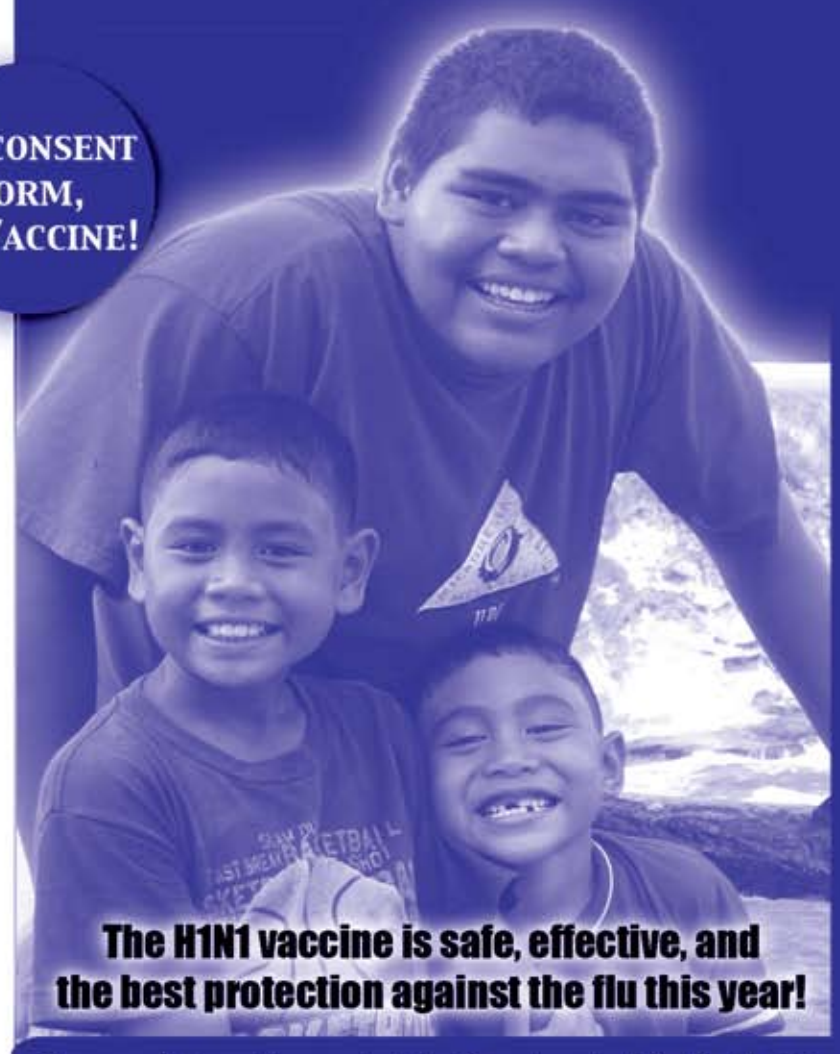
January 28th – Thursday
Dandan Elementary School
Oleai Elementary School
San Vicente Elementary School

January 29th – Friday
Koblerville Elementary School
San Antonio Elementary School
WSR Elementary School

Rota, Tinian, and Private School Schedules are being finalized

Visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.

NO CONSENT FORM, NO VACCINE!



The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and the best protection against the flu this year!

For more information, contact the Department of Public Health at 234-8950 or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com.

CDC

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. state trooper shot, killed, suspect found dead

CRANBERRY, Pa. (AP)—Pennsylvania state police believe a man fatally ambushed a state trooper responding to a domestic dispute, and also killed his wife before turning the gun on himself, investigators said Wednesday. Lt. Col. Lenny Bandy said a man police couldn't see yelled from a window as two troopers responded to a dispute at the home of Michael J. Smith, 44, shortly after 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. When the troopers yelled back for the man to present himself, a man they believe is Smith instead fired one shot, striking Trooper Paul G. Richey as he attempted to enter a side door, according to Bandy.

Former minister in Texas on trial for wife's death

WACO, Texas (AP)—A minister's wife told her therapist a few days before she died that she thought her husband was going to kill her and was having an affair, her therapist testified Wednesday at his murder trial. Therapist JoAnn Bristol said Matt Baker's first words to her at the funeral visitation for Kari Baker were "I never saw it coming." Kari Baker's 2006 death initially was ruled a suicide. "He said, `Did she tell you that she thought I was trying to kill her?' I said 'yes.' Then he said, `Did she tell you she thought I was having an affair?' I said 'yes.' ... Then I said, `Matt, what happened?'" Bristol told jurors on the first day of Baker's trial.

Pilot dead after small plane crashes in Conn.

OXFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut officials say a single-engine plane has crashed near the Waterbury-Oxford Airport, killing the pilot and leaving hundreds of residents without power. State police say emergency workers pulled the sole occupant from the wreckage and took him to an area hospital, where he was pronounced dead late Wednesday. Airport officials notified police that they had lost contact with an airplane making a final approach. A Connecticut Light and Power Inc. spokesman says the plane damaged a power line and a tower leading to a nearby substation. It was not immediately clear whether the aircraft hit them before the crash.

More than 100 neglected animals found at Nev. farm

RENO, Nev. (AP)—In one of the worst cases they can remember, Nevada agriculture officials have cited a woman for animal cruelty for neglecting more than 100 barnyard animals, including 35 starving horses and a goat that died from eating wool off a sheep carcass. Jan Lemley of Battle Mountain faces 42 counts of animal cruelty. Each count carries a civil fine of $1,000, said Nevada Department of Agriculture spokesman Ed Foster. Lemley did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press on Wednesday. She told The Battle Mountain Bugle, which first reported the incident, that her attorney had advised her not to comment.

Across US, outpouring of grief and help for Haiti

MIAMI (AP)—Hans Mardy has dialed the numbers hundreds of times, praying someone—his father, his sister, one of four brothers—will pick up the phone.

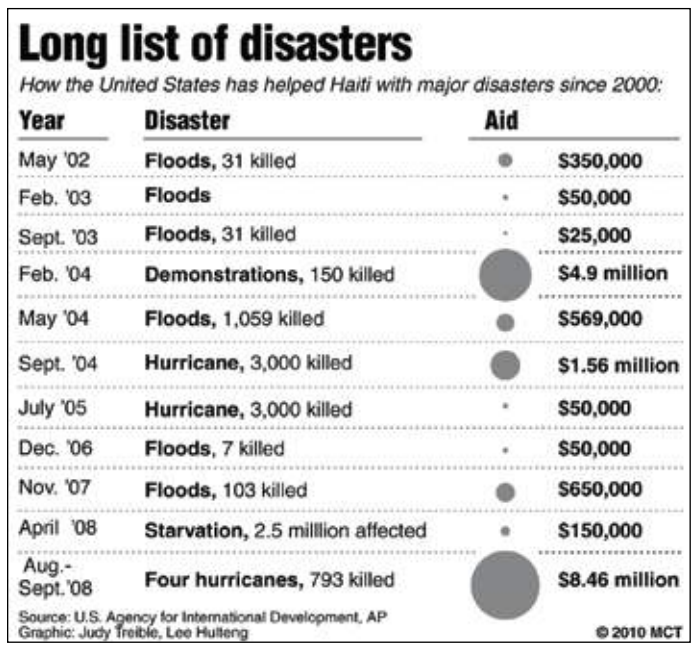
He waits, passport in pocket, ready to board the next flight to earthquake-ravaged Haiti. He writes frantic text messages. "Are you alive? What happened? Give me a sign of life."

No one answers.

Across the U.S., which has about 800,000 residents of Haitian descent, Haitian-Americans desperately tried to get word Wednesday from relatives and friends in the devastated nation. Most, like Mardy, heard nothing back.

Some poured their energy into relief efforts, joining Americans with no connection to Haiti who collected bottled water, canned goods, medical supplies and money. Others bowed their heads in prayer or sat transfixed by their televisions.

In Evanston, Ill., Bernard Geto couldn't hold back tears as he watched CNN at Sweet Nick's Caribbean restaurant, jumping each time his cell phone rang. In South Bend, Ind., Slandah Dieujuste learned an aunt lost her house but escaped. She could not get information about anyone else.


Long list of disasters
How the United States has helped Haiti with major disasters since 2000:
Year | Disaster | Aid
May '02 | Floods, 31 killed | $350,000
Feb. '03 | Floods | $50,000
Sept. '03 | Floods, 31 killed | $25,000
Feb. '04 | Demonstrations, 150 killed | $4.9 million
May '04 | Floods, 1,059 killed | $569,000
Sept. '04 | Hurricane, 3,000 killed | $1.56 million
July '05 | Hurricane, 3,000 killed | $50,000
Dec. '06 | Floods, 7 killed | $50,000
Nov. '07 | Floods, 103 killed | $650,000
April '08 | Starvation, 2.5 million affected | $150,000
Aug.-Sept.'08 | Four hurricanes, 793 killed | $8.46 million
Source: U.S. Agency for International Development, AP
Graphic: Judy Treible, Lee Hulteng
© 2010 MCT

And as community organizers in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood tried to develop response plans, 29-year-old Katia Saint Fleur scoured Facebook, tears welling in her eyes.

"Please if you can, contact us any way, do so," she wrote on a cousin's page. "We are going crazy trying to reach you guys."

The State Department has established a toll-free number (888-407-4747) for people seeking information about family members in Haiti. The government advises that some callers may receive a recording because of the heavy volume of inquiries.

At the Haitian Consulate in Manhattan, diplomats struggling to locate their own families sobbed as they tried to help countless callers.

"It is indescribable," said counsel general Felix Augustine.

People did what they could to mobilize aid to Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. The U.S. dispatched ships, helicopters, planes and a 2,000-member Marine unit. Cabdrivers transported relief items to collection points, search-and-rescue teams headed to the nation to comb through the rubble, and companies prepared to send heavy equipment.

Obama, Democrats declare progress on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Searching for unity, President Barack Obama and senior Democratic lawmakers emerged from marathon health care talks late Wednesday with a declaration that they had made tough gains—but no deal just yet.

"We made significant progress in bridging the gaps," Obama said in a joint, written statement with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. It was a reference to the significant differences in the versions of the House and Senate bills, legislation designed to expand coverage to millions and rein in long-term health care costs.

Pushed by Obama, senior Democratic lawmakers plunged into talks at the White House in a hurry-up bid for an overdue agreement. The unusually long meeting—it began at midmorning and was still going at sunset—underscored the urgency they and Obama felt about completing legislation on which they have staked so much.

The White House said the leaders covered all aspects of the legislation but it released no details about where the progress had been achieved or when the laborious process would end.

"Prospects of reaching agreement between the Senate and the House are better than they were 24 hours ago. We're getting close," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said after the daylong talks finally ended.

Congressional negotiators will return to the White House on Thursday afternoon for more meetings.

The House and Senate have passed different versions of the measure, which Obama wants to expand health coverage to millions who lack it, end insurance company practices such as denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions and slow the rate of growth of medical costs overall.

Hoyer and others said the day's talks ranged widely over numerous areas of disagreement between the House and Senate. A key point was Obama's demand for a tax on high-cost insurance plans, a proposal designed to slow the inexorable rise in health care costs. House Democrats oppose the idea. So, too, does organized labor, and some union leaders were also at the White House during the day, although it was not clear whether they met with lawmakers.

The president's personal commitment in time was extraordinary.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

FINAL NOTICE OF DENIALS OF APPLICATIONS
2008 APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS
January 8, 2010, first notice
January 15, 2010, second notice

PARTIES TO APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS FILED IN 2008 (INCLUDING BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS):

Each of the applications to employ foreign workers filed at any time during calendar year 2008 has either been granted or denied by the Labor Processing Section of the Department of Labor. If your application has not been granted, it has been denied. In each case, this is a final action by the Department of Labor. All claims, including all appeals and all claims for eligibility for transfer, if not previously granted, have been denied. Any party who has not been served personally or by mail with the denial is now, as of the publication of this notice, served with the denial. An employer or worker served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the denial from the Labor Processing Section. An employer or worker affected by a denial has until **February 3, 2010** to appeal the denial. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a party, and the time within which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

Tight penalties weighed for air security scofflaws

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A Georgia man dashes through a checkpoint at the Atlanta airport and gets 10 days in jail. A hairdresser in a hurry bypasses security in Philadelphia and gets a $500 fine. A drunken man stumbles onto a Chicago airfield and gets 18 months' supervision. All caused major air travel delays costing millions of dollars—and all got what critics call a slap on the wrist.

The recent shutdown of the Newark, N.J., airport after a similar breach is drawing calls for harsher penalties and highlights concerns about punishments not much worse than what someone would get for tossing a hamburger wrapper out the car window on the New Jersey Turnpike.

At least one senator wants to make such trespasses a federal offense. Other ideas include six-figure fines and flying bans, though security experts and traveler advocates doubt whether harsher punishments will deter anybody from breaking the rules. They suggest a better way to prevent breaches is by improving training of airport security staffs—and perhaps using new technology to help them.

"In most cases, it's a stupid mistake," said Douglas Laird, who runs an airport security consulting business in Reno, Nev. "Most people don't say: 'I'm going to breach.'"

The bill proposed by Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey will call for the tougher penalties, but he has not offered specifics other than calling for allowing the federal government to charge people who create scares—even those who are more bonehead than bomber. Such offenses are now regulated by local law and often fall far down the scale of criminal offenses.

The man charged in the Jan. 3 New Jersey case, 28-year-old Rutgers University graduate student Haisong Jiang, faces only a $500 fine—the same as a first offense for littering in New Jersey—if he's convicted in municipal court. Friends have said he walked through a terminal exit to say goodbye to his girlfriend before she flew to Los Angeles.

Asia

Lawyers' office in Malaysia 'Allah' case ransacked

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Vandals splashed a church with paint and burglars ransacked a law firm defending Christians in their fight to use the word "Allah," adding to religious tensions in Muslim-majority Malaysia, police and officials said Thursday.

The Church of St. Elizabeth in southern Johor state was splashed with red paint before dawn, district police chief Osman Mohamed Sebot said. It was the 10th church attacked or vandalized since Friday night in Muslim-majority Malaysia, where people of different faiths have generally lived without conflict.

Meanwhile, the offices of the law firm representing Herald was broken into and ransacked, lawyers said Thursday.

Lawyer S. Selvarajah said that staff arrived at work in the morning to find several locks and steel grill doors to enter the 2nd and 3rd floor offices cut, drawers ransacked and papers strewn on the floor.

He said his partner's laptop was missing. A mobile phone service provider's shop and tuition center on the first floor were not broken into, he said.

"Only our office has been targeted," he said. "It looks like it is an intimidation tactic ... We anticipated something will happen. We are definitely upset about this," he told The Associated Press.

The incident adds to the tension building up since the church attacks began Friday night. Eight churches have been firebombed by unknown attackers, including one that was partially gutted. Two other churches were splashed with paint, and another place of worship—a Sikh temple—was pelted with stones, apparently because Sikhs use the word "Allah" in their scriptures.

The attacks followed a High Court ruling on Dec. 31, allowing a Catholic publication, the Herald, to use "Allah" as a translation for God in its Bahasa Melayu language edition. The ruling, which overturned a government ban on the word, upset many Muslims in Malaysia.

Bahasa is the language of the Malay Muslims, who comprise about 60 percent of the country's 28 million population. It is also spoken by indigenous people of Sabah and Sarawak states on Borneo, who form more than 70 percent of Malaysia's 2.5 million Christians.

The government, which has appealed against the High Court ruling, says "Allah" is exclusive to Islam and its use by Christians would mislead Muslims. The Christians say they have been using the word for decades, and it is the only word they have for God in their language.

The government has condemned the attacks on the churches and has vowed to uphold the freedom of religion guaranteed to minorities by the constitution.

The ban is over the use of "Allah" only in published material and not in everyday speech by the country's various minorities.

AP

Two burned patches on the wall of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are seen in Petaling Jaya, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010.

Officials: Alleged US missiles kill 10 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A suspected U.S. missile strike killed at least 10 alleged militants Thursday at a compound formerly used as a religious school in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, officials said, the eighth such attack in two weeks.

The strike illustrated the Obama administration's unwillingness to abandon its missile campaign against insurgent targets along Pakistan's northwest border with Afghanistan. Despite Pakistani protest, the missile attacks have surged in number in recent days.

Nearly all the attacks in recent months have focused on North Waziristan, a segment of Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt where some militant networks focused on battling the U.S. and NATO in Afghanistan are based. Some of those militants are believed to have been involved in a late December attack that killed seven CIA employees in eastern Afghanistan.

It's a region that the Pakistani military has been wary of treading, partly because the groups have not directly threatened the Pakistani state. The army has struck truces with some of the groups to keep them out of its battle against the Pakistani Taliban—who have attacked Pakistan in numerous ways—in nearby South Waziristan.

UN: Taliban cause Afghan civilian deaths to soar

KABUL (AP)—Taliban suicide bombings and other attacks caused Afghan civilian deaths to soar last year to the highest annual level of the war, a U.N. report found Wednesday, while deaths attributed to allied troops dropped nearly 30 percent. Many Afghans now blame the violence on the Taliban rather than foreign forces.

A decline in NATO killings of civilians has become a key U.S. goal for winning over the Afghan people. Public outrage over rising death tolls prompted the top commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal last year to tighten the rules on the use of airstrikes and other weaponry if civilians are at risk.

The United Nations said 2,412 civilians were killed in 2009—a 14 percent increase over the 2,118 who died in 2008. Nearly 70 percent of civilian deaths last year, or 1,630, were caused by the insurgents, the report found.

NATO and allied Afghan forces were responsible for 25 percent of the deaths, or 596, the U.N. said, down from 39 percent, or 828, in 2008.

The remainder could not be attributed to either side: civilians caught in the crossfire or killed by unexploded ordnance, according to the report.

More than half the civilian deaths were a result of suicide attacks and other bombings as well as assassinations and executions—despite an order last year by Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar to avoid endangering noncombatants. The U.N. said Taliban attacks were mainly aimed at government or international forces but civilians can stumble into ambushes or be too close to a suicide bombing.

Afghans seen as supporting the government or the international community also were increasingly targeted.

A survey commissioned by ABC News, the BBC and ARD German TV found that 42 percent of 1,534 Afghan respondents now blame the violence on the Taliban, up from 27 percent a year ago, while 17 percent blame the U.S., NATO or the Afghan security force, down from 36 percent. The poll, conducted last month, has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

A NATO spokesman, Col. Wayne Shanks, credited the military's new restraint for the decline in the number of deaths blamed on pro-government forces.

ASIAN BRIEFS

North Korea says it will allow more US tourists

BEIJING (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday it will begin to allow in more American tourists after years of heavy restrictions on visits to the isolate country, according a tour operator. The United States has never had diplomatic relations with North Korea since the Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. More recently, tensions have remained high over the North's nuclear program. Only about 2,000 tourists from the U.S. have visited since the country opened to Western tourism in 1987, according to the founder of a China-based tour group that says it has taken most of those visitors into the isolated country.

Hindus dip in icy Ganges during festival

HARIDWAR, India (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of devotees took a dip in the icy waters of the Ganges river in one of northern India's holiest cities Thursday, marking the start of a monthslong Hindu festival expected to attract more than 10 million people. Under the watchful eyes of platoons of policemen, groups of men, women and children entered the fast-moving waters of the river, in a holy ritual at the Kumbh Mela, touted as the largest religious gathering in the world. The festival, which is celebrated every three years, rotates among four Indian cities.

38 people killed in Papua New Guinea bus crash

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—Police say 38 people were killed and 18 others hospitalized after two speeding buses crashed head-on while trying to drive around potholes. They say the two 25-seat buses were overloaded when they collided in Morobe province on Papua New Guinea's northeast coast on Tuesday. Morobe Assistant Police Commissioner Giossi Labi said: "This accident appears to have occurred when both drivers tried to avoid potholes, and in the process collided." "It is one of the saddest days in the history of road accidents," he said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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NOTICE OF CLOSURE
APPEALS CASES
Friday, January 15, 2010, First Notice
Friday, January 22, 2010, Second Notice

Each of the appeals listed below has been adjudicated and closed by the Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final agency action. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any appellant or appellee listed below who has not been served personally with the Secretary's order adjudicating or dismissing case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the Secretary's order from the Executive Secretary. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

Any appellant or appellee who has a claim covered by or a part of any of these cases that has not been adjudicated or included in a final order of the Secretary should report to the Executive Secretary at the Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio on or before **February 8, 2010** with the necessary documentation with respect to the claim.

Case No.	Appellant	Appellee
CAC 09-006-01	Gu, Xia (LIDS No. 284968)	
PAT/NOB - 1151	Hu, Gui Hua (LIDS No. 287734)	
PAT/NOB - 1055	Kim's General Corporation	
PAT/NOB - 1975	Liang, Jie (LIDS No. 285093)	
	Payoc, Lorelie B. (LIDS No. 185789)	
PAT/NOB - 08-3438	Zang, Gui Zhi (LIDS No. 281526)	
PAT/NOB - 08-3448	Zhang, Jun (LIDS No. 286354)	

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Chavez suspends rolling blackouts in Caracas

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez indefinitely suspended rolling blackouts in Venezuela's capital just a day after they began, and sacked his electricity minister saying he was responsible for mistakes in the way the rationing plan was applied. Chavez's announcements late Wednesday were a significant strategic shift in his attempts to prevent a widespread power collapse in the coming months through rolling blackouts of up to four hours a day across the country. "I've ordered the electrical outages to be suspended, only in Caracas," Chavez said on state television. "Because this government has to be capable of recognizing mistakes made and fixing them in time."

A step closer to Guinea, leader seen as danger

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Burkina Faso's president held emergency talks late Wednesday with Guinea's wounded junta chief, who opposition leaders say remains a threat to their country even in exile. Morocco unexpectedly removed Capt. Moussa "Dadis" Camara from a military hospital in Rabat a day earlier and flew him to Burkina Faso, washing their hands of the strongman but leaving his fate unclear and putting him within driving distance of the nation he terrorized for nearly a year. The surprise move came as the West African country had been making tentative steps toward a return to civilian rule, which many fear could be derailed if Camara returns.

Ex-IAEA chief injects life into Egypt's politics

CAIRO (AP)—The U.N.'s former nuclear chief has yet to return home to his native Egypt after almost a quarter century monitoring the world's atomic programs, but the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize winner has already created the biggest political stir in his homeland in years by hinting at a new career in politics. Mohamed ElBaradei may one day regret plunging into Egypt's politics—where challenges to the regime have been few and swiftly dealt with—but his move has injected fresh hope into the country's stagnant political atmosphere. Egypt has been ruled for nearly 30 years by Hosni Mubarak, now 81, who appears to be trying to set up a political dynasty by grooming his son to succeed him.

Haiti quake: thousands feared dead, many trapped

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers desperately searched collapsed buildings as fear rose that the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small—from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the injured. Wisnel Occilus, a 24-year-old student, was wedged between two other survivors in a truck bed headed to a police station. He was in an English class when the earth shook at 4:53 p.m. and the building collapsed.

"The professor is dead. Some of the students are dead, too," said Occilus, who suspected he had several broken bones. "Everything hurts."

Other survivors carried injured to hospitals in wheelbarrows and on stretchers fashioned from doors.

In Petionville, next to the capital, people used sledgehammers and their bare hands to dig through a collapsed shopping center, tossing aside mattresses and office supplies. More than a dozen cars were entombed, including a U.N. truck.

Nearby, about 200 survivors, including many children, huddled in a theater parking lot using sheets to rig makeshift tents and shield themselves from the sun in 90-degree heat.

At a triage center improvised in a hotel parking lot, people with cuts, broken bones and crushed ribs moaned under tent-like covers fashioned from bloody sheets.

"I can't take it anymore. My back hurts too much," said Alex Georges, 28, who was still waiting for treatment a day after his school collapsed and killed 11 classmates. A body lay a few feet away.

"This is much worse than a hurricane," said doctors' assistant Jimitre Coquillon. "There's no water. There's nothing. Thirsty people are going to die."

Bodies of earthquake victims lay on a street in Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010. AP

If there were any organized efforts to distribute food or water, they were not visible.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders treated wounded at two hospitals that withstood the quake and set up tent clinics elsewhere to replace its damaged facilities. Cuba, which already had hundreds of doctors in Haiti, treated injured in field hospitals.

Bodies were everywhere in Port-au-Prince: those of tiny children adjacent to schools; women in the rubble-strewn streets with stunned expressions frozen on their faces; men hidden beneath plastic tarps and cotton sheets.

Haiti's leaders struggled to comprehend the extent of the catastrophe—the worst earthquake to hit the country in 200 years—even as aftershocks reverberated.

"It's incredible," Preval told CNN. "A lot of houses destroyed, hospitals, schools, personal homes. A lot of people in the street dead. ... I'm still looking to understand the magnitude of the event and how to manage."

Preval said thousands of people were probably killed. Leading Sen. Youri Latortue told The Associated Press that 500,000 could be dead, but conceded that nobody really knows.

"Let's say that it's too early to give a number," Preval said.

Panic, looting and triage after major Haiti quake

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The tiny bodies of children lay in piles next to the ruins of their collapsed school. People with faces covered by white dust and the blood of open wounds roamed the streets. Frantic doctors wrapped heads and stitched up sliced limbs in a hotel parking lot.

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, still struggling to recover from the relentless strikes of four catastrophic storms in 2008, was a picture of heartbreaking devastation Wednesday after a magnitude-7 earthquake.

Tuesday's quake left a landscape of collapsed buildings—hospitals, schools, churches, ramshackle homes, even the gleaming national palace—the rubble sending up a white cloud that shrouded the entire capital.

On Wednesday, ambulances weaved in and out of crowds, swerving to miss the bodies lying in street and the men on foot who lugged stretchers bearing some of the injured.

Shocked survivors wandered about in a daze, some wailing the names of loved ones, praying or calling for help. Others with injuries fast growing into infections sat by the roadside, waiting for doctors who were not sure to come.

Search-and-rescue helicopters buzzed over the bodies of partially clothed victims who lay face-down in mounds of rubble and twisted steel.

Everywhere, there was panic, urgency, pleas for help.

"Thousands of people poured out into the streets, crying, carrying bloody bodies, looking for anyone who could help them," Bob Poff, divisional director of disaster services in Haiti for the Salvation Army, said in a posting on the agency's Web site.

Violence expected as Mexican drug lord arrested

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—It will take more than a few arrests of top drug kingpins to end the vicious cycle of drug violence plaguing Mexico.

While "El Teo" Teodoro Garcia Simental was the fourth major trafficking suspect to be apprehended or killed since President Felipe Calderon launched a major offensive three years ago, 20 more high-profile drug lords—including billionaire Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the leader of the vast Sinloa Cartel—remain at large.

And the vacuum created by Garcia's arrest Tuesday in Baja California is expected to fuel even more violence.

"I know that politicians are making a big deal about this arrest, but honestly there is a line of ill-intentioned people waiting to take the place of that man," said Dulce Gonzalez Armendez, a 25-year-old receptionist in Tijuana. "Not only do I believe this will not bring peace to Baja California, but I also think things will get even worse."

Oscar J. Martinez, a history professor at the University of Arizona who studies the cartels, agreed.

"It will just create more violence, mayhem and suffering for ordinary people as his associates retaliate and rival gangs take advantage of perceived weaknesses in the camps of competitors," he said.

The transformation of Ciudad Juarez into one of the world's most dangerous cities began with a fight between cartels. Guzman and Juarez Cartel boss Vicente Carrillo Fuentes launched a deeply personal fight over drug routes their organizations had long shared. They have adopted increasingly brutal tactics, leading to more than 2,500 deaths last year in the city across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas.

Garcia started as an errand boy in the drug trade in the 1990s and slowly worked his way up the ranks before he made a power play two years ago to take control of Tijuana's drug trade. He broke off from Tijuana's faltering Arellano-Felix cartel, sparking a brutal street war with his main rival, Fernando Sanchez Arellano.

Beyond the expected escalation in violence, the government's crackdown has not begun to touch the financial and intellectual structures of Mexico's drug gangs, including the corrupt politicians and businessmen who launder billions in drug profits, said Victor Clark, who runs the Binational Center for Human Rights from a cinderblock apartment building near downtown Tijuana.

Still, the enhanced surveillance techniques and shared intelligence between Mexico and the U.S. that have helped authorities infiltrate the operations are seen as instrumental in the effort to bring the cartels to their knees.

The coordination was cited in the Dec. 16 raid in Cuernavaca that led to the death of Arturo Beltran Leyva. The cartel controlled by Leyva's family, centered in northwestern Mexico across the border from Arizona, has taken the hardest recent hits.

On Dec. 30, Carlos Beltran Leyva, Arturo's brother, was captured by federal police in Culiacan. Another brother, Alfredo Beltran Levya was captured on Jan. 20, 2008, while a fourth, Hector Beltran Leyva, is still at large and believed to be the boss now.

Garcia was nabbed Tuesday when federal troops stormed a vacation home about 1,000 miles south of his Tijuana stronghold.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Fla. couple marry in supermarket where they met

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. (AP)—One Broward County couple decided to tie the knot where they first met: Whole Foods Market. Jack Frankel, 75, and 67-year-old Fina Nikolos met in May at the supermarket store in Coral Springs. It had been raining when Frankel noticed a beautiful woman pass him. Nikolos offered to walk him to his car with an umbrella. He later thanked her by taking her out to lunch. On Saturday the two returned to where their love began for a small wedding ceremony in the store's cafe. About 40 people attended the ceremony as store employees and customers watched and smiled. The couple held each other close during the ceremony, sharing a few tears.

Student apologizes for urinating on nativity scene

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP)—A student at a northeastern Pennsylvania Roman Catholic college has apologized for urinating on a public nativity scene. The student, 22, said Monday he "was being a drunken idiot" a day earlier when he urinated on the nativity scene in Wilkes-Barre's public square. He was charged with public drunkenness, indecent exposure, open lewdness and desecration of venerated objects. He said he plans to plead guilty at a Jan. 20 preliminary hearing. The student met with officials King's College in Wilkes-Barre on Monday. A school spokesman said he faces punishment ranging from a warning to expulsion. He has vowed to quit drinking.

Driver growing locks for charity told to cut hair

MARION, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts delivery driver growing his hair out for charity said he has been told by his employer to cut it. Brad Siscoe, a contractor employee who makes deliveries for FedEx Ground, said Monday his employer wants him to cut his "hockey" hair, put it in a ponytail or tuck it under a hat. But Siscoe said his hair is too short for a ponytail and can't fit in a cap. Siscoe said he's growing out his hair for the charity Locks of Love—a group that provides hairpieces for disadvantaged children undergoing medical treatments. FedEx spokesman Perry Colosimo said the company has a history of supporting charitable causes and the issue is between an independent contractor and his employee.

Unhappy meal: Woman charged in McDonald's rampage

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A woman has been charged with trashing a McDonald's restaurant in Missouri because she was unhappy with her cheeseburger. Police said they received many tips after releasing video of the Dec. 27 incident. In the video, which has been viewed hundreds of thousands of times online, a customer is seen throwing a sign and a water dispenser over a counter and pushing three cash registers to the floor. On Tuesday, the Jackson County prosecutor's office charged 19-year-old Alesha McMullen of Kansas City with Class D felony property damage. It wasn't immediately known if McMullen has an attorney. A phone listing for her could not be found. Police say McMullen told officers her order was prepared wrong and the restaurant refused to give her a refund.

Scammer sends $4,000 check to police in Washington

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)—Not even the police are immune from those offers of free money from African countries that are really scams. Richland police could use another $4,000, but the department wasn't tempted by the cashier's check it received Friday in the mail from the country of Benin. Officer Erica Tungesvik said officers immediately recognized it as a bogus attempt to learn bank account information if the check were deposited. An officer wrote up a report on the incident and Tungesvik said it serves as a reminder that if the police can be the target of such a scam, anyone can.

Man offers apologetic robbery note, waits for cops

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Portland police said a man handed an apologetic robbery note to an employee at a FedEx Kinko's store, then waited for police to arrive. Employee Paul Rhoney said the note said: "This is a robbery, I'll wait outside for police, sorry." Police Detective Mary Wheat said responding officers found the 46-year-old man outside the store Tuesday morning and took him into custody. Wheat said no robbery charges will be pursued because the man did not have a weapon and didn't carry out a robbery. Police believe he simply wanted to go to jail. The man was taken to the Multnomah County Jail for investigation of initiating a false report.

Colorado mystery: Beheaded fish, unknown intruder

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A Boulder woman said she discovered a fish in her aquarium had been beheaded and $10 was missing from her wallet after she shooed an intruder from her apartment. Police say the 19-year-old woman awoke at about 2 a.m. and saw the stranger. She yelled at him to leave but didn't immediately call police because she assumed the man had mistakenly entered the wrong apartment. Police said the woman hadn't locked her door that night. She then went to a friend's house, and when she returned later she discovered a Betta fish had been beheaded and money was missing from her wallet. Betta fish are popular for freshwater aquariums. They have bright colors and long, flowing tails. No arrests have been made. The woman's name wasn't released.

NYC's 'skinniest' house sells for $2.1M

NEW YORK (AP)—A town house dubbed New York City's skinniest house has sold for $2.1 million. The red, 9 1/2 foot wide, 42 foot long brick building in Greenwich Village was built in 1873 on land used as an alley between homes. The town house was listed for sale last August at $2.7 million. The two bedroom, two bath home last sold in 2000 for $1.6 million. A plaque on the narrow Bedford Street home notes poet Edna St. Vincent Millay once lived there; so did anthropologist Margaret Mead. The newly-sold building was listed on real estate Web sites Wednesday as a rental available for $10,000 a month. An e-mail seeking comment from the listed rental agent Wednesday was not immediately returned.

Dog leads owner to elderly, unconscious Minn. man

PINE CITY, Minn. (AP)—Police credit a 15-year-old German Shorthaired dog with saving the life of an elderly, unconscious man in Pine City. Brett Grinde said he took Effie out for their usual walk on Monday evening, but within a couple minutes she started pulling on the leash, wanting to go in a different direction. Effie then took off running, leading Grinde to a neighbor's house where a 94-year-old man was on face down on the driveway. The dog started licking the man's face. Grinde called 911, then started CPR. KARE-TV reported the eldery man, William Lepsch, regained consciousness and is in serious condition at North Memorial Medical Center.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works/Energy Division
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
P.O. Box 500340, Saipan, MP 96950
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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funded and made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 is now making Application for Services available to the public.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) in coordination with the CNMI Energy Division is an energy efficiency program that helps low-income households, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children by managing and reducing their energy costs by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. The WAP program and weatherization measures implemented are aimed at alleviating the heavy energy burden by providing long-term assistance and relief for low-income families who have met the eligibility criteria, at the same time helping them become more self-sufficient.

The U.S. DOE awards grants to state-level agencies, such as the Energy Division which then deliver WAP services to those eligible here in the CNMI. Weatherization programs operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, among Native American tribes, and now the Territories, to include the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

Individuals from the CNMI Division of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program in coordination with other support will be conducting home energy audit assessments on applicant's homes that meet the minimum requirements for eligibility. These assessments will be performed to determine the most cost-effective measures appropriate for each home that may qualify. Weatherization services will be based and made available on the outcome of the energy audit assessment.

To pick-up an Application for Service and for more information on the WAP program and to see if you or your household may be eligible for weatherization services, please visit us at our office or contact the Energy Division Office, Capitol Hill, House #1337 (Asuncion Drive), at 664-4480/1 and ask for Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Program Manager or Ms. Thelma Inos, Energy Director.

American Recovery me Reinvestment Act (ARRA) e ayoora salaapial Energy Division Weatherization Assistance Program mellól Commonwealth Téél faluw kka falúwasch Efáng Marianas lóll 2009 iye ebwe atotoowow application (scheel tingor) ngáliir toulap.

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) fengál me alillisil CNMI Energy Division Program iye ekke alisi low-income households, schéschéél mal tufey, mal semwaayúl iligh, me aschó kka re ghal afelli layúr me atamagheli yaar energy (dengkki) mellól iimw, afelli yaar lollo me ammweleer. Progróómal Aghiyeghil WAP me weatherization ebwe aghitighitáátiw weiresil dengkki kkaal ngáre re ayoora long-term assistance me alisi aramasal low-income igha re tabweey eligibility criteria, me ebwal alisiir bwe rebwe ghatch yaar lollo.

U.S. DOE nge e ngáller state-level agencies, sibwe ira Engergy Division ebwe ayoora alillisil WAP ngáliir schóókka re eligible (filong) e mellól CNMI. Weatherization program ekke mwóghutaagheli alongal 50 state, District of Columbia, masamasal Native American, me falúw kka ighila, e toolong Commonwealth Téél faluw kka falúwasch Efang Marianas.

Akkamwevút mellól CNMI Division of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program fengál me bwulasiyo kka re ghal alillis rebwe bwungúw ghatchúw home energy reel schóókka rekke apply (tingór) ikka re tabweey tingórol eligibility. Rebwe ayoora asóssót bwelle rebwe ghuley iimw kka rebwe fillong (qualify). Weatherization services nge ebwe sáp sángi me ayoora ngáre atakk asóssótol energy yeel.

Bweibwogh Application reel Alillis yeel me ammatafal WAP program me ubwe ghuley ngáre yeel me aramasal lóll iimw óubwe fillong reel weatherization services, toolong bwulasiyo me faingi Bwulasiyool Energy Division, Capitol Hill, House # 1337 me Ms.Thelma Inos, Samwoolul Energy.

I Commonwealth I Sankattan na Islan Mariana Siha Dibision, Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) mafondo yan managuaha gi papa I American Recovery yan Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 2009, pago hana guaha aplikasion setbisio para I publiku.

I U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) ha dirihi guato gi CNMI Energy Division gi programan energy efficiency ni ha ayuda I low-income households, patikulatmente I man åmok ni man gai disabilidat yan familia ni man gai famagu'on pot ginen I minanehan yan rinibahan I gaston enery ginen I kinahulon I sufisienten I gima-ñiha, yan asiguridat I hinemlo yan sinafon-ñiha. I programan I WAP yan weatherization ha midiyi I ma'implimenta ni para inayuda minakat I energy ya maprobeniye ayudon anako na tiempo (long-term) yan alibio para I familia siha ni man low income yan manilihible, yan gi mismo tiempo maninayuda ufan mas self-sufficient.

I U.S. DOE hana guaha grants para I state agencies, tatkomu I Dibision Energy ni hanahi I setbision WAP para ayu I manilihible siha gi halom I CNMI. I Weatherization Programs manakalamten gi halom 50 states, District of Columbia, gi halom I Native American Tribes, yan pago gi Territories, inklusu I Commonwealth na Islan Mariana siha.

I Indibiyuat siha ginen I CNMI Deibision Energy Weatherization Assistance Program yan I dinirihen sapottasion ahensia siha para u makondukta home energy audit assessment gi gima aplikante siha ni manilihible nui minimum requirement siha Esti siha na assessment para u managuaha ni para u ditemina I mas cost-effective yan propio para kada guma ni siña kualifikao. I setbision weatherization siempre managuaha sigun I sinedda I energy audit assessment.

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Funded by: U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Science & Technology

Google's China threat is a rare show of defiance

BEIJING (AP)—Google's threat to end its operations in China over censorship and computer-security concerns could embarrass communist leaders who crave international respect. Yet it appears unlikely that many other companies would follow suit and try to change how business is done in China.

"As long as you aren't involved in politics, the media or pornography, the government will leave you alone," said Siva Yam, president of the United States of America-China Chamber of Commerce, which primarily represents U.S. companies in China.

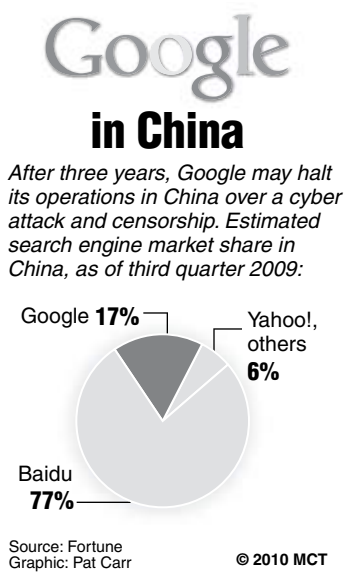
Such high-tech companies as Microsoft Corp. and Cisco Systems Inc. had no comment on Google's announcement Tuesday that it would stop censoring results on its Chinese search engine at Google.cn and might leave the country entirely.

Yahoo Inc. said it was "aligned" with Google's position, though it's not clear what that would mean. Yahoo closed its offices in China several years ago when it sold much of its business there to the Alibaba Group. Yahoo retains a 39 percent stake in Alibaba, and Yahoo spokeswoman Nina Blackwell declined to say whether the company would consider selling its holdings.

Google angered free-speech advocates when it created its China search engine, Google.cn, in 2006 and agreed to exclude links to sites blocked by government filters, popularly known as the Great Firewall of China.

Now Google's decision to confront Beijing might help repair its image.

"Google is putting the other companies in a delicate position, raising the ante and trying to occupy the higher moral ground," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, head of government studies at Hong Kong Baptist University. "Other companies that are ready to cooperate with Chinese censorship maybe are going to be criticized and targeted by human rights activists."


Google
in China
After three years, Google may halt its operations in China over a cyber attack and censorship. Estimated search engine market share in China, as of third quarter 2009:
Google 17%
Yahoo!, others 6%
Baidu 77%
Source: Fortune
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2010 MCT

There was no government reaction in Beijing to Google's announcement Tuesday, which said the company was dismayed by hacking attacks launched from within China. Google said the attacks were apparently designed to break into the computers of U.S. companies and gather information about human rights activists.

China's state Xinhua News Agency cited an unidentified Cabinet official as saying the government was seeking more information from the company. A statement from the Chinese consulate in San Francisco said: "The Internet of China is open. The Chinese government encourages the development and usage of the Internet. The law of China prohibits any kind of cyber attacks. We welcome Internet companies to operate in China according to Chinese law."

At the very least Google's threat sets up a conflict between the governmment's desire to maintain strict controls on the Web and the hopes of its increasingly prosperous, sophisticated citizens. Many of them poured out support for Google on Wednesday.

Visitors left flowers and lit candles outside Google's offices in Beijing's high-tech Haidian district. Notes on bunches of flowers said, "Thank You Google" and "Google Bye-bye."

"I'm here to pay my respects to Google because they did not lose their dignity and they stayed true to their company's beliefs," said You Liwei, 28, who works in publishing. Other visitors bowed in a traditional gesture of respect.

Comments on Chinese Internet bulletin boards pleaded with Google to stay. A note on Tianya.cn hailed Google as a "great soldier of freedom," while on the Web site of the ruling party newspaper People's Daily, a visitor appealed for a compromise.

"Google is good. For the sake of technology advancement, the Chinese side should reach a cooperative agreement," the note said.

Google's Gmail adds security after China hacking

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google is tightening the security of its free e-mail service to combat computer hackers like the ones that recently targeted it in China.

With the shift, Gmail accounts will automatically be set in an "https" mode, meaning contents of e-mail will be scrambled so they're less likely to leak out to unauthorized users. Before, only the log-in data was encrypted.

Google hadn't been using this more secure format as Gmail's default setting because it can be slower than the unprotected mode.

The shift to the more secure setting began late Tuesday, just a few hours after Google announced Chinese hackers had pried into the e-mail accounts of human rights activists. Google is now considering pulling out of China and shutting down its search engine there because of the attacks.

Your hard drive is a huge pie waiting to be divided

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

My cubicle-mate was astounded that I have not one, but four partitions on my 750-gigabyte hard drive. One runs the Windows Vista operating system; a second is running Windows 7; a third runs Windows XP and the fourth runs a Linux operating system. Why do I clutter my hard drive with four operating systems? Cuz I can. And so can you.

You might want to consider partitioning your hard drive with several operating systems if a:) you have older programs you just can't say goodbye to, such as those that will run only on Windows XP; b:) you get fed up with Windows and want to run the free Linux operating system or c:) you want your kids to have their own space, far away from yours or d): you're one crazy dude who subscribes to the theory that variety is the spice of life.

Count me in on all four groups. I have older programs that simply will not run in Vista or 7, and I do get fed up with Windows at times. And there are certain folders and files I'd rather my kids didn't get their hands on, such as my last will and testament.

If you're not up to using the free Windows partition tool, you could consider Acronis Disk Director Suite, a very slick program for all versions of Windows that guides you through the simple process of partitioning (dividing) your hard drive so you can run dozens of operating systems. It creates a menu when you boot up to allow you to choose one of your many partitions. If you mess up and somehow delete a partition, Disk Director will guide you through the steps to get it back.

Partitioning works much like a pie chart (or a piece of cherry pie, if you prefer). Each piece is its own separate operating system. Some pieces are bigger than others, because you might have more programs for that partition. One partition will have nothing to do with the other. In fact, it won't know that the other partitions exist. You also can clone a partition for the ultimate backup on a separate partition.

It used to be that partitioning a hard drive was like jumping off a cliff. While you can do a certain amount of partitioning from within Windows (that's how I do it, because it doesn't cost anything), Disk Director simplifies the process for novices and cubicle-mates who are rightly cautious about messing with their hard drives.

Disk Director Suite 10 will run on Windows 7 on down to 98. To order, send $39, plus $6 for shipping, to WashingtonCD, PO Box 351531, Los Angeles, CA 90035, or online at www.washingtoncd.net.

Web winners: Careers for the future

By REID KANALEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

With the job market still looking grim, we offer Web sites with guidance on the careers that will matter in the decade to come. There's also a look at predicted job opportunities 20 years ago.

NEW JOBS: http://go.philly.com/jobsdecade1
National Public Radio produced a recent series on "New Jobs for a New Decade." This is an overview of the series, which points out some suspected hot job categories for the immediate future. Among them are green jobs, health jobs, and tech jobs. Another category involves jobs in the video gaming industry, which continues to hold huge promise for entrepreneurs. You can link from this page to the audio versions of each segment of the radio series.

GREEN JOBS: www.greencareersguide.com
Job options in sustainable energy, environmental science, and related fields are expected to keep growing. This site describes the field and breaks it down into various career categories, including natural building, mass transit, clean energy, green engineering, and conservation. Articles describe the "green economy," "green-collar jobs," and reasons to become a "green entrepreneur."

SMART MAJORS: http://go.philly.com/jobsdecade2
The GoldSea site, aimed at the Asian-American community, suggests 10 "smart" college majors for the next decade _ all of them described as less boring alternatives to the premed, prelaw, or pre-M.B.A. tracks. First among the alternatives is a combination of mathematics and statistics. The article says this provides an inside track to many lucrative careers. Military service, via the service academies or ROTC, is one of the more surprising options listed. Traditional disciplines and a growing focus on high technology make the military something to consider, it says here.

DECADES PAST: http://go.philly.com/jobsdecade3
So, what were they saying 10 or 20 years ago about hot job prospects? This Money Magazine article dated 1990 will tell you. Topping the list then were chef, health-care cost manager, computer-graphics artist, and environmental engineer. The idea of "green" jobs wasn't even a twinkle in the eye.

TECH Q&A

Speeding up an old computer on a budget

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: My mother-in-law recently gave her old Toshiba laptop to our 14-year-old daughter. It works fine but is a tad slow. It has an Intel Celeron M processor, a chip speed of 1.5 gigahertz, 448 megabytes of RAM and a 55.8-gigabyte hard drive. Is there anything we can do to speed it up without spending a lot of money? Would adding more RAM be worthwhile?

Answer: Yes, more RAM would speed up the system. From your description, I think you have a Toshiba Tecra A5-S116 (check your PC to make sure.) Laptops of this type can be upgraded to a total of 2 gigabytes of memory.

Additional RAM modules plug into two memory "slots" on your main circuit board, and are available in increments of 1 gigabyte ($40), 512 megabytes ($24) or 256 megabytes ($14).

For instructions on how to install RAM modules in a laptop, see the YouTube video at tinyurl.com/ya7e5v2.

To find out more about RAM module prices, see tinyurl.com/ye9pqut and tinyurl.com/yabjatm. (You can search for RAM using your laptop's model number.)

■■■

Q: I recently purchased a new laptop computer with the 64-bit version of the Windows 7 operating system. I'm in the process of purchasing an external hard drive to back up files. Do I need a special hard drive for 64-bit Windows 7, or if I can use any external hard drive?

A: There have been reports of some external hard drives failing to work with the 64-bit version of Windows 7. The problem was that the 64-bit operating system wouldn't accept the drives' "software drivers"—the software that enables the PC and the hard drive to communicate. Check out Microsoft's list of external drives that are compatible with the 64-bit version of Windows 7 at tinyurl.com/y8screc.

■■■

Q: I bought the Microsoft Office Small Business 2007 upgrade to replace the 2003 version installed on my desktop PC. But I can't get the upgrade to install. It starts, then quits and displays the message "encountered an error during setup." Microsoft's technicians wouldn't help because I lacked a serial number that's inside the software that won't load. What should I do?

A: The error you describe seems to be the one on the Microsoft help page at tinyurl.com/ycageop. The page says the upgrade program can't uninstall the 2003 version of Office and suggests you do it manually.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

On Jan. 13, PIC recreated a "local village" so the Russian guests could experience the traditional island culture while celebrating their New Year's Eve.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Russian guests are taught how to weave coconut leaves.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Larry Lee's ukulele group performs at the Russian New Year's Eve party at PIC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Talofa Dance Group perform a Polynesian dance number for guests.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PIC celebrates Russian New Year—local style!

These wood carvings were a hit with guests during the local crafts fair held Jan. 13 at PIC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As the leading Russian market hotel in the Commonwealth, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan has established a tradition of celebrating Christmas and New Year's Eve Russian style—on the 7th and 13th of January each year, based on the Russian Orthodox Church calendar. PIC organizes the special event for its Russian guests every year and invites Russian guests from other hotels and local Russians residing on Saipan to participate. PIC has taken the lead in this celebration, as the hotel accommodates 60 percent of all Russian guests visiting Saipan.

Last week, PIC celebrated Russian Christmas with a spectacular party at The Magellan restaurant, with performances by the Pacific Winds ensemble, PIC Clubmates and a raffle drawing. Santa Claus also gave away Saipandas as Christmas gifts to all Russian kids. Over 180 Russians attended the event and danced until midnight. Many left with certificates for dining, optional tours, rental cars and gifts from local stores and businesses.

On Jan. 13, the hotel organized a sensational event that had not been done before by any other hotel in the Commonwealth. PIC recreated a "local village" so the Russian guests could experience the traditional island culture while celebrating their New Year's Eve. The event began with a local crafts fair where PIC invited local artisans to showcase and sell their crafts from 3pm to allow all in-house guests to enjoy the fair.

Local crafters and artist such as Priscilla Pangelinan, Tirso Adriatico, Martin Camacho, Flowerpot Salas, Tokie Mojica and Greg Elliot brought island flavor to the event with their wood, coconut, sea shell and bone carvings, weaving, flowers, jewelry, paintings, clothing and other unique goods. PIC set up tents decorated with palm leaves, latte stones and fresh flowers to resemble an old-style village.

Just before the entrance, guests were met by a local warrior with two goat calves for a photo opportunity. Russian guests were welcomed to the party with fresh coconut juice and tuba tasting, shell and bojobo necklaces and woven hats. While the guests enjoyed their dinner with buffet stations featuring Russian, Chamorro and international cuisine, they were entertained by a local musical musical performance.

The hotel Clubmates helped the guests with traditional activities such as coconut husking, coconut weaving and lei making. The audience listened with great interest to Larry Lee's ukulele group and was excited to watch a live cockfight demonstration.

The mood was enhanced by the Talofa Dance Group's Polynesian dance show, Carolinian warrior dances as well as guests' contests in lava lava and banana eating, bamboo dance and fireworks.

When the guests depart the island, they will carry with them fond memories of not only PIC, but also the island with its local culture and traditions.

PIC is thankful to all local businesses that supported the two Russian events with raffle donations: DFS, King's Jewelry, Hertz, Toyota, Triple J, Joeten, Tony Roma's, Capricciosa's, Restaurant 360, Tori Hide and MVA. Lucky guests will enjoy optional tours at *Stars and Stripes*, *Love Boat*, submarine, SandCastle as well as massages at Mandi Spa and Healing Stone, and diving with the local Russian diving Speedy Turtle.

PIC sold additional raffle tickets at both events to raise money for orphans at the Children Hospital No. 3 in Vladivostok as part of the hotel's charity project "Sharing Seeds." The hotel began helping the orphans last spring by installing new windows, purchasing diapers, baby food and other necessities.

When asked why PIC chose to celebrate the Russian New Year's in local style, the hotel's Russian market manager Elly Stoilova replied, "The Russian guests have chosen to celebrate this holiday abroad and we are very thankful that they have chosen the CNMI as a viable destination for their holiday. We wanted to give them the opportunity to enjoy more of the local culture and traditions and bring word-of-mouth about the CNMI back to Russia. We hope that with all the photos and videos taken, these guests will share the stories with their friends, relatives and co-workers to bring us more customers from Russia." ***(PR)***

Just before the entrance, guests pose beside this carving of a local warrior for a photo opportunity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In Celebration of His New Life

Eddie Souad Ngirngesang

Lovingly known as "Eddie Aldan Paulis"
Bon on October 15, 1985
Was called to his eternal rest on Sunday, January 10, 2010

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Grandparents: Souad Ngiralbong & Simis Ngiralbong
Niece: Diane Ariel Paulis Rios

His Memory will forever live in the hearts of his:

Parents: Oveny Paulis & Theresita A. Paulis

Brothers: Raynold A. Paulis
Jerry A. Paulis

Sisters: Sayuri A. Paulis
Rouseleane A. Paulis
Raynna Oveny

Brother & Sister In-Laws:
George Rios,
Gaydee E. Paulis
Ginn Arurang
John James Mality

Uncles: James Alidadhadong
Marino Aldan
Thomas Aldan
Augusto Aldan

He will be missed by numerous Aunties, Nieces & Nephews.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30 p.m. at the Family residence in Garapan, Upper Miha Housing M1

On Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 7:00 a.m. our beloved Eddie will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center Morgue to the family residence in Garapan, Upper Miha Housing M1. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. immediately followed by interment at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

The Family

Networks rush personnel into Haiti

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Television news divisions raced to get into Haiti to report on the devastation wrought by a powerful earthquake, a journey made more difficult by the story they were trying to cover.

Those first to arrive described scenes of horror frightening in scope. Even some of the journalists arriving a day after the earthquake indicated Wednesday that they had not yet seen any full-scale rescue and relief effort.

"It's an eerie scene," said CNN's Anderson Cooper, who left in the midst of a newscast Tuesday for an overnight flight to the Caribbean. "Many people (are) just sort of standing around on the street, not sure of what to do or where to go. And for many, there is nowhere to go."

The broadcast networks' three top anchors—Katie Couric, Diane Sawyer and Brian Williams—were all dispatched to the country. Sawyer flew 18 hours to New York from Afghanistan, where she had anchored ABC's "World News" for two days, and didn't even leave the airport before getting on another plane headed south.

CBS' Couric tweeted while en route from the Dominican Republic to Haiti: "Getting to Port au Prince will be very tricky. Sounds very bad, sixty percent of structures shabby in good circumstances." CBS' Kelly Cobiella arrived in Haiti Tuesday night.

AP

A hand sticks out from the rubble, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Are Leno, O'Brien going at it?

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien have mined NBC's late-night mess for plenty of jokes about their employer. Now they seem to be turning on each other.

There was a certain bite to some monologue jokes by each man Wednesday, a day after O'Brien said he wasn't willing to move the "Tonight" show back a half-hour to make way for Leno.

Leno

Leno took note of his colleague's complaint that his NBC bosses gave him only seven months to establish himself at the "Tonight" show.

"Seven months!" Leno said. "How did he get that deal? We only got four."

O'Brien returned volley in his own monologue. He said hosting the "Tonight" show has been the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.

"And I just want to say to the kids out there watching: You can do anything you want in life," he said. "Unless Jay Leno wants to do it, too."

Could David Letterman sense something from all the way across the country in New York?

"Isn't it lousy cold outside today?" Letterman said on CBS' "Late Show." "You know, they say, from the weather bureau, they say it's caused by an Arctic chill between Jay and Conan."

NBC still hasn't commented on O'Brien's refusal to play ball, and a negotiated exit seems likely.

Owners of Jackson's giraffes are facing eviction

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—Police in a small northern Arizona city are investigating the deaths of two giraffes from Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch, and two others likely will have to find new homes.

Freddie and Tom Hancock of Page acquired the giraffes as part of a plan to build a wildlife preserve on city property they leased in 2008 that also would house exotic birds, reptiles and a camel.

Those plans unraveled as the Hancocks and the city engaged in a legal battle over terms of the lease agreement for the 175-acre property in southeast Page.

City Manager Bo Thomas said the Hancocks never posted a required $100,000 bond or irrevocable letter of credit, while the Hancocks argued the city failed to act in good faith and did not provide them with a bond form.

A judge last week ruled in favor of the city, and Thomas said Wednesday that a timeline for eviction is being prepared.

Meanwhile, the animal rights group PETA is calling on authorities in Page to confiscate and relocate the remaining giraffes, fearing they are mistreated. The group also asked police to determine whether the Hancocks violated animal cruelty laws in relation to the deaths of the other giraffes.

In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

+Rosa "Chai" Manglona Atalig Camacho

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries and most especially at the mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

David T. Camacho, Sr., Children and Families

'American Idol' ratings strong without Paula Abdul

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paula who? Despite losing judge Paula Abdul, "American Idol" started its ninth season on a high note with an estimated audience of nearly 30 million. Tuesday's viewership of 29.9 million is about 2 percent lower than last year's season debut audience of slightly more than 30 million, according to preliminary Nielsen Co. figures released Wednesday.

By comparison, the 2009 debut episode saw a 10 percent drop compared to 2008.

It's an indication that "Idol" can capitalize on cast changes like Abdul's to resist potential viewer boredom as it ages. That will be further tested when judge Simon Cowell leaves after this season to launch another Fox talent contest, "The X Factor," next year.

The 37.4 million who watched the 2007 debut represents the series' high point for opening nights.

"I think people love to love the show," said Mike Darnell, Fox's executive in charge of alternative programming. "It's one of the few phenomena that exist: the Super Bowl, the Oscars, `American Idol.' It's an American tradition.'

The tradition began in Britain as "Pop Idol," which was created by entertainment mogul Simon Fuller and whose 19 Entertainment carried the concept to more than three-dozen TV markets worldwide. FremantleMedia North America teams with 19 Entertainment, a division of CKX Inc., in producing the U.S. version.

"What we've proved now, again, not that we need to prove anything, is this show is about the public's relationship with the fundamental things in life," said Fuller, calling "American Idol" "authentic" in its celebration of people's dreams and aspirations.

Fans can accept change, he added: Who would have thought the James Bond movies would have become such a remarkable franchise over the years "with so many Bonds."

"American Idol" has been the top-rated show for five years among all viewers and for six years among the advertiser-favored 18 to 49 audience.

Abdul, who had been with the show since it started, left over a salary dispute. Her place is being filled first by celebrity panelists, including Victoria Beckham and Katy Perry, and later this season by new judge Ellen DeGeneres.

Fuller said he was unconcerned that "The X Factor," based on Cowell's hit British series of the same name, might affect the audience for "American Idol" by diluting the talent-show marketplace. If it's an issue at all, he said, it's one that's more than a year away.

"That's not my worry. ... We're the biggest talent show on earth. All I'm really worried about is `Idol,' and we're strong," he said, adding, "America has such an incredible talent pool."

"The X Factor," with Cowell as judge and executive producer, will air in fall 2011, with "American Idol" keeping its January to May run.

Another top TV competitor, CBS' "NCIS," held its own against the Fox series with an audience of nearly 21 million, just shy of its pre-"Idol" performance. The drama has been the season's top-ranked series so far.

AP

In this Nov. 22, 2009 file photo, artist Paula Abdul poses backstage at the 37th Annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Producer: Stars queuing for Cowell spot on 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The search for a new "American Idol" judge to replace Simon Cowell next season is quickly taking on epic proportions.

British mogul Simon Fuller, who created the template for the U.S. show with "Pop Idol" in the U.K., says there's been a global outpouring of celebrity interest in the job.

And there's no apparently no rush to fill it.

"A day doesn't pass that I don't get a call from an agent of a superstar saying, 'Can we talk?' ... Everyone's interested, and that's going to go on month after month," said Fuller, whose company, 19 Entertainment, produces "American Idol" with FremantleMedia North America.

Fuller, in Los Angeles from London to watch the start of Hollywood week auditions for "American Idol," said he has enjoyed seeing the chemistry emerge between newcomer Ellen DeGeneres and the acerbic Cowell.

DeGeneres was chosen to replace original panelist Paula Abdul, who left over a salary dispute. Guest judges, including Victoria Beckham, filled in during the cross-country auditions that kicked off the season Tuesday. The episodes from Hollywood with DeGeneres start airing Feb. 9.

Cowell

The comedian and daytime talk show host is "dynamic" and her relationship with Cowell "will blow people away," Fuller said after observing the pair at work for the first time.

DeGeneres is also proving an attraction for the slot that will open when Cowell leaves to produce "The X Factor," based on his hit U.K. series, for Fox. The new talent contest is set to debut in fall 2011.

"American Idol," consistently TV's top-rated program, will remain in its traditional January to May rotation on Fox.

"It's a testament to it ('Idol') that we attracted someone as brilliant as Ellen. When we have to do something about Simon, I'll be in the luxury position of looking at all the greatest stars of the world," Fuller said. "We can do so much with it."

Fuller, who didn't name names, said change is healthy. He noted that people couldn't imagine "American Idol" without Abdul but that the ninth season began this week with impressive preliminary ratings, as nearly 30 million people tuned in.

Stiller, Pitt, other celebs urge quake relief

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oprah Winfrey, Paris Hilton, Ben Stiller, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are among the celebrities and artists urging support for survivors of the earthquake in Haiti.

Doctors Without Borders announced Wednesday that Pitt and Jolie were contributing $1 million to the organization's emergency medical operations responding to the earthquake. The organization said it is dispatching additional emergency staff, including a surgical team and equipment to establish a 100-bed inflatable tent hospital with two operating rooms.

"We understand the first response is critical to serve the immediate needs of countless people who are now displaced from their homes, are suffering trauma, and most require urgent care," Pitt said in a statement.

Stiller tweeted late Tuesday that "people in Haiti need our help and attention right now." Similar tweets are showing up from the likes of Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, Adam Lambert and Ryan Leslie.

"It seems like across the wide spectrum of artists and people in the music industry and the movie industry and everything else, people are kind of joining together to help in whatever manner that they can," Blink-182 bassist-vocalist Mark Hoppus told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Singer Wyclef Jean arrived in Haiti, his native country, on Wednesday. "I cannot stress enough what a human disaster this is, and idle hands will only make this tragedy worse," he said in a statement. "The over 2 million people in Port-au-Prince tonight face catastrophe alone. We must act now."

Publicist Leslie Chasky said he is focusing on his family, his Haitian charity, Yele, and responding to the disaster. Shakira, on her Web site, called for donations to Yele and to UNICEF.

Winfrey began her television talk show Wednesday by asking viewers to donate to the Red Cross. "This is a time where we, as a global nation, should come together and support those who are in need," Winfrey said.

Lee Daniels, director of the film "Precious," for which Winfrey served as executive producer, said Wednesday that the earthquake made this Sunday's Golden Globes ceremony seem "so unimportant." Daniels' film received three nominations.

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The Book of Eli

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Monday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman
Action • Rated R

Synopsis

In a post-apocalyptic America where the once-picturesque countryside has become a desolate and violent wasteland, one man (Denzel Washington) fights to protect that sacred tome that could hold the key to the survival of the human race in this futuristic thriller from filmmaking duo Albert and Allen Hughes (From Hell and Dead Presidents). Gary Oldman, Mila Kunis, and Ray Stevenson co-star in the Warner Bros. production.

The Spy Next Door

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:35
Monday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jackie Chan, George Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

A man (Jackie Chan) is forced to defend some neighborhood children who have been put in his care against secret agents looking for a stolen secret code in this Relativity Media family action film. Are We There Yet's helmer Brian Levant directs from a script by Jonathan Bernstein and Jim Greer.

★ ★ ★

Daybreakers

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:50
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Ethan Hawke, William Dafoe
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Fresh off the success of their inventive take on the zombie genre, Undead masterminds Michael and Peter Spierig direct Ethan Hawke in an ambitious tale of a futuristic Earth populated entirely by vampires, and the efforts made by the creatures to ensure that their food supply doesn't run out as humankind is faced with extinction. The year is 2017, and a vampire plague has turned most of the planet's human population into bloodsucking ghouls.

Youth in Revolt

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

M. Emmet Walsh, Fred Willard
Comedy • Rated R

Sherlock Holmes

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Sqeakquel

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler
Children, Family • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Monday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Tues thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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Tobey Maguire not anticipating Oscar nod

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tobey Maguire isn't sensing he'll receive an Oscar nomination.

The 34-year-old "Spider-Man" actor, who will be competing alongside George Clooney and Morgan Freeman for the best dramatic actor trophy at the 67th annual Golden Globes on Sunday, is keeping modest about any possible Academy Awards recognition for his dark "Brothers" role as a soldier suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after fighting in Afghanistan.

Maguire

"In terms of a nomination, I expect not to be nominated," Maguire said during a recent interview. "And I'm totally OK with that. I'm just really excited about the attention the film has gotten. It's been a thrill to get a Golden Globe nomination and get some of the attention personally, but I'm honestly more excited that the film's gotten the attention."

Maguire was passed over last month for a Screen Actors Guild nomination, which favored another portrayal of a soldier: Jeremy Renner's risk-taking bomb disposal technician in "The Hurt Locker." Maguire called the performance of Renner, who didn't get a Golden Globe nod, "amazing" and said he appreciated another honest and authentic look at the effects of war.

"What happens to these people and their families can be very traumatic, and it can alter somebody's point of view of the world or how they relate to the world when they come back to society," said Maguire. "I think it's a very difficult thing for these folks to deal with. They often don't feel like they can share their experiences with anyone else."

Beisdes Clooney ("Up in the Air") and Freeman ("Invictus"), Maguire will also be up against Jeff Bridges ("Crazy Heart") and Colin Firth ("A Single Man") at Sunday's Golden Globes ceremony hosted by Ricky Gervais, six days before voting closes for the Oscars. The "Spider-Man" star said he's not afraid of becoming the British comedian's punching bag.

"I hope Ricky Gervais tries to poke fun at me," he said. "I think he's hilarious."

Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios announced earlier this week that Maguire and "Spider-Man" director Sam Raimi would not be returning to the superhero franchise for a planned fourth installment. Instead, a new cast and filmmaking team will produce a new "Spider-Man" movie that would focus on a much younger Peter Parker and debut in the summer of 2012.

'Dexter' star Hall being treated for cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Dexter" star Michael C. Hall is undergoing treatment for cancer and the disease is in remission, a spokesman said. "I feel fortunate to have been diagnosed with an imminently treatable and curable condition, and I thank my doctors and nurses for their expertise and care," Hall, 38, said Wednesday in a statement.

The actor was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system, which is part of the body's immune system. The disease is considered highly treatable with the potential for full recovery.

Hall

Craig Bankey, a spokesman for the actor, said the cancer is in complete remission and Hall's treatment will continue as planned.

When Hall was diagnosed and the name of the Los Angeles-area health facility where he's undergone treatment were not released.

Hall plans to attend Sunday's Golden Globe awards and the upcoming Screen Actors Guild ceremony with his wife, actress Jennifer Carpenter, who plays his sister on Showtime's "Dexter." Hall is a nominee at both awards shows for his role as Dexter Morgan, a serial killer working as a blood-spatter expert.

Bankey said Hall will return to production on the drama's fifth season later this year.

Prosecutors charge woman in celebrity burglaries

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman suspected of being the mastermind behind a series of break-ins at the homes of Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan has been charged with felony burglary and receiving stolen property.

Rachel Lee, 19, was charged Wednesday. She joins five other young men and women charged with burglaries at the homes of celebrities including Orlando Bloom, Rachel Bilson, Ashley Tisdale, Megan Fox and Audrina Patridge.

Lee turned herself in Wednesday afternoon and was quickly released after posting $150,000 bail, jail records showed.

She is charged with the burglaries at the Hollywood Hills homes of Hilton, Lohan and Patridge. She was arrested in October in Las Vegas, where she lives. Los Angeles County prosecutors initially declined to press charges against her, instead asking police for more investigation.

Lee and Nicholas Prugo, who faces seven counts of first-degree burglary, have been accused by authorities of spearheading the burglaries. Prugo told police that Lee often suggested celebrities whose homes they should target and he would search the Internet for more information, according to a search warrant obtained in Nevada.

Attempts to reach Lee were unsuccessful and jail records did not list whether she has an attorney. An arraignment date for her has not been set. Criminal charges have not been filed against Lee in Las Vegas, Clark County courts spokesman Michael Sommermeyer said.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Depp gets statue in Serbia

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Hollywood heartthrob Johnny Depp was honored Wednesday with a life-size statue in Serbia. The Pirates of the Caribbean star had a statue in his image unveiled to him by renowned Serbian director Emir Kusturica during an annual film festival—called Kustendorf—held in a mountain village in southwestern Serbia. Depp met with Serbian President Boris Tadic upon his arrival on Tuesday. He was then flown by helicopter to the mountaintop village constructed by Kusturica for one of his movies. Kusturica, a two-time Cannes Film Festival winner, said he plans to make a movie with Depp paying legendary Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa. "Depp will be my guest for three days," Kusturica said. "He will lead several workshops for participants of the festival, drink wine, watch films and visit some locations where he will shoot a film about Pancho Villa."

Bassist who toured with Lauryn Hill fatally shot

CROCKETT, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in California are looking for suspects in the fatal shooting of a 24-year-old man who played bass and toured the world with singer Lauryn Hill. The California Highway Patrol says Dewey Tucker was found dead in his vehicle Tuesday night, having been shot on his way to band practice in Oakland. Investigators have made no arrests, and say it appears Tucker was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. They say he had no criminal history. Tucker's parents say their son was engaged and was an outgoing young man who lived to play music. Tucker performed with Hill over the past couple of years and played with Oakland hip-hop group the Coup. He was also a member of the Greater St. Paul Baptist Church band in Oakland.

B'way's 'Billy Elliot' recoups production costs

NEW YORK (AP)—The Broadway company of "Billy Elliot" has danced into profitability. Producer Eric Fellner says the production at the Imperial Theatre has recouped its $18 million production costs in 14 months. Based on the film directed by Stephen Daldry, the show has been doing hefty business at the Imperial Theatre since it opened there in November 2008. It won the 2009 Tony Award for best musical as well as nine other Tonys including one for Daldry who directed the stage version, too. "Billy Elliot" tells the story of a coal miner's young son who yearns to dance. It features a score by Elton John (music) and Lee Hall (book and lyrics). A Chicago company opens in April and a second national company hits the road in November.

Soul singer Teddy Pendergrass dies in Pa. at 59

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Teddy Pendergrass, who became R&B's reigning sex symbol in the 1970s and '80s with his forceful, masculine voice and passionate love ballads and later became an inspirational figure after suffering a devastating car accident that left him paralyzed, died Wednesday at age 59. The singer's son, Teddy Pendergrass II, said his father died at Bryn Mawr Hospital in suburban Philadelphia. The singer underwent colon cancer surgery eight months ago and had "a difficult recovery," his son said. "To all his fans who loved his music, thank you," his son said. "He will live on through his music." Pendergrass suffered a spinal cord injury and was paralyzed from the waist down in the 1982 car accident. He spent six months in a hospital but returned to recording the next year with the album "Love Language." He returned to the stage at Live Aid in 1985, performing from his wheelchair.

Wyclef Jean's tweeting for Haiti galvanizes Web

NEW YORK (AP)—Wyclef Jean is one of Haiti's most famous sons, and his tweeting about the earthquake there has been a galvanizing force on the Web. Jean is most famously a member of the now-defunct Fugees. Publicist Leslie Chasky says he arrived Wednesday in Haiti and is focusing on his family, his Haitian charity and responding to the disaster. Several of the most popular topics on Twitter referred to a tweet from the singer urging people to send a text to the charity, Yele, to donate $5 toward relief. The number is 501501. Hundreds are passing his message on by the minute. The Yele Web site is inundated with donations and has crashed under the traffic. A spokeswoman for the charity says the organization is working to fix the problem and increase the site's bandwidth.

Vegetarian feels picked on for her choice of lifestyle

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 27 and have been a vegetarian for five years. I am trying to develop a thick skin when it comes to people who question or make fun of my choice, but I'm tired of laughing and letting the comments "roll off" my back.

When my grandfather sits near me at a family event, he will analyze my plate, look at me in disgust and then tell me, "Carrots have feelings, too."

When I go to a well-known sandwich shop, I order a basic and "boring" sandwich, which I really enjoy. The sandwich makers give me funny looks and ask, "That's all?" or, "You're spending five bucks on THIS?" followed by laughter or a shake of their heads. One even asked me if I was crazy!

I am tired of people questioning what I eat or what kind of sandwich I choose to spend my money on. I don't make comments or question those who eat meat. What is the best response to people who are so rude about my choices?

HERBIVORE BY CHOICE IN NEW YORK

DEAR HERB: Sorry, there is no one-size-fits-all snappy one-liner. But take comfort in the fact that a growing number of people are choosing to avoid meat and poultry not only for the ethical reasons, but also because they prefer to avoid the hormones and antibiotics used in the production of these food products.

When someone comments or questions you, it's important to consider the source as well as the intent behind the remarks. Your grandfather may be trying to be humorous—or he may be showing concern because he comes from a generation that didn't learn there can be benefits from a vegetarian diet. Because he's getting under your skin, rather than take the bait, sit next to some other relatives at family events.

As to the employee at the sandwich shop—the person may be trying to "sell you up." After all, the more ingredients in your sandwich, the more expensive it will be. I completely agree that ridiculing a customer is not only bad manners but also bad for business—and the next time it happens, do not hesitate to complain about it to the manager.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: For the last three years I have been dating a woman who, 15 years ago, divorced an Army colonel after 20 years of marriage. She loved the prestige of being an officer's wife.

There always seems to be a reason why she must mention her ex, no matter what the topic is. I finally told her it seemed like she missed him. Now, instead of saying his name, she says, "When we were in Germany, we did this ..." or, "When we lived in Idaho we used to ..." No matter what I say, she never fails to find a way to tell a story about life with her ex.

I am an Army vet and I cannot mention anything about the Army because if I do, she'll one-up me with yet another war story about him. And when we are together in public, she never misses a chance to disclose that we do not live together, and she always speaks in the singular regarding her plans.

Is her conduct an indication that she's unhappy with me? If not, what's going on?

OVERSHADOWED IN SALEM, ORE.

DEAR OVERSHADOWED: Let's see. First of all, this woman is surprisingly insensitive to your feelings. Second, when people feel the need to "one-up" others, it usually stems from insecurity. Third, when a woman consistently points out that she and her companion of three years "don't live together" and speaks in the singular about her plans, it's a strong indication that she doesn't regard herself as part of a couple.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DID YOU CLEAN YOUR ROOM LIKE I ASKED YOU TO?
I'M GOING OUTSIDE. CALVIN CAN CLEAN HIS OWN ROOM.
I DON'T WANT ANY NONSENSE, CALVIN. GO UPSTAIRS.
CALVIN? I'M NOT CALVIN. I'M HIS DUPLICATE. CALVIN'S IN HIS ROOM.
WHAT DID I JUST SAY? NO NONSENSE, CALVIN! GO CLEAN YOUR ROOM.
BOY, YOU ARE A CRABBY LADY! WHO ARE YOU? CALVIN'S CRUEL GOVERNESS?
THAT DOES IT.
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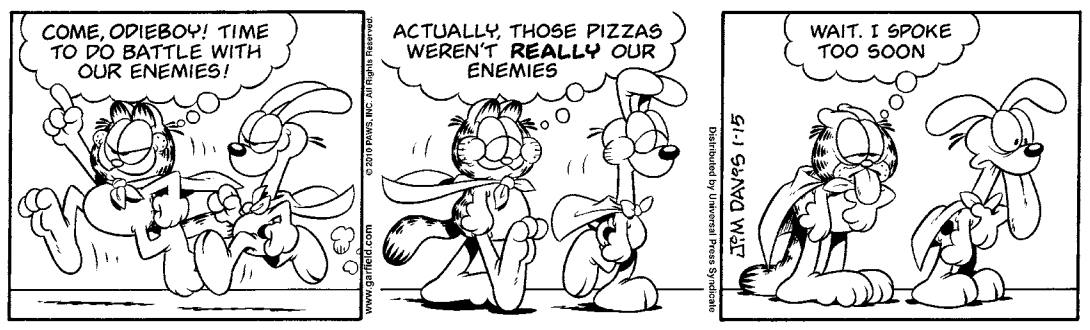
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


COME, ODIEBOY! TIME TO DO BATTLE WITH OUR ENEMIES!
ACTUALLY, THOSE PIZZAS WEREN'T REALLY OUR ENEMIES
WAIT. I SPOKE TOO SOON
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JIM DAVIS 1-15

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM, YOU DON'T LOOK SICK.
I KNOW. I'M GOOD AT MASKING MY PAIN.
OH, REALLY?
REMEMBER WHEN THE COFFEE SHOP WAS CLOSED FOR REMODELING?
I DIDN'T CRY ONCE.
SUCH COURAGE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY. HOW DID YOU EVER MAKE IT?
DETERMINATION, A STRONG WILL AND THE PATIENCE OF A GOOD WOMAN.
SHE SOUNDS GREAT.
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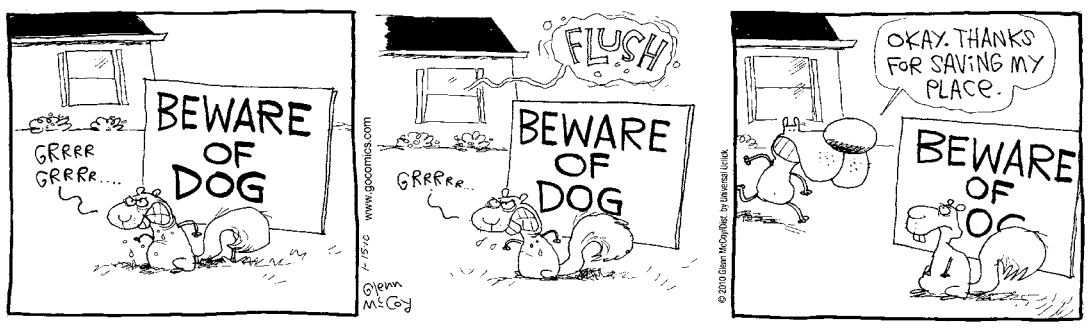
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 U.K. fliers
4 Light applications
8 Campus area
12 John's Yoko
13 Birthright barterer
14 Language of Pakistan
15 Like — (very rapidly)
17 Hollywood clashers
18 Unable to hear
19 Not just plump
20 Work in a refinery
22 Mani-pedi prop
24 Tortoise's challenger
25 Deuce, maybe
29 Past
30 Layered rock
31 Ultramodernist
32 Youthful indiscretions
34 Unseen hazard
35 Super Bowl XXXIV champs
36 Prosperous times
37 Subsequently
40 Ethereal
41 Unyielding
42 Mr. Hickok
46 Platter
47 Initial stake
48 Born
49 Obi, e.g.
50 No-see-um's cousin
51 Obtain

DOWN
1 Tier
2 Singer DiFranco
3 Nonsense
4 Trim a roast
5 "Yeah, right!"
6 Prohibit
7 Take to court
8 Where joual is spoken
9 Incite
10 Commotions
11 Bernhardt contemporary
16 Take a letter?
19 Shoppe description
20 "Pygmalion" writer
21 Creche trio
22 Decrees
23 Troubles
25 "Pow!"
26 Pesky
27 Paper quantity
28 Feet, slangily
30 Take to the skies
33 Get all wet
34 Soak up
36 Bathroom fixture
37 Covers
38 Met melody
39 Pitch
40 Utah ski resort
42 Vacillate
43 Hostel
44 Appomattox surrenderer
45 Allow

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	A	S	E	■	P	E	N	■	K	O	L	A
R	O	A	R	■	R	N	A	■	O	D	E	S
A	N	N	E	■	I	S	M	■	R	Y	E	S
B	E	D	L	A	M	■	A	G	E	S	■	■
■	■	■	O	P	E	N	S	E	A	S	O	N
S	H	I	N	E	■	A	T	M	■	E	V	E
Y	E	G	G	■	A	B	E	■	T	U	E	S
N	A	N	■	D	U	O	■	W	A	S	N	T
C	L	O	S	E	D	B	O	O	K	■	■	■
■	■	M	E	N	U	■	P	O	E	T	R	Y
A	L	I	T	■	B	R	A	■	O	H	I	O
S	E	N	T	■	O	U	R	■	F	O	L	K
K	A	Y	O	■	N	E	T	■	F	R	E	E

Yesterday's answer 1-15

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18				■	■	19				
20	21				■	22	23			■	■	■
24				■	25					26	27	28
29			■	30					■	31		
32			33					■	34			
■	■	■	35				■	36				
37	38	39			■	■	40				■	■
41				■	42	43					44	45
46				■	47				■	48		
49				■	50				■	51		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ernie Reyes Jr., 38; Chad Lowe, 42; Andrea Martin, 63; Margaret O'Brien, 73

Happy Birthday: Don't limit what you want to do because of the restrictions others have tried to place on you or your plans. Instead, find a unique way around any interference you face. Your experience with a past partner will come in handy now. Sometimes looking back can be exactly what is needed to move forward. Your numbers are 9, 16, 23, 26, 33, 41, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You cannot let setbacks stand in the way of your goals. Forward moves are the only route that will lead to better times. Let your intuition guide you and your strong independence help you overcome any pitfalls you've encountered. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can raise your profile, improve your status or even make a professional change that will bring you greater recognition and higher income. Focus on work and don't let location deter you from taking on a challenge that excites you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep moving in a forward direction. Someone may not like your choices, but if you focus on what's ahead instead of what's behind, you can outmaneuver anyone trying to hold you back. Impulsive moves will backfire. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A burden that you have been dealing with can be lifted if you take proper action. A change will lessen your stress and give you some hope for the future. An interesting proposition will work out better than expected. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotional matters will be raised and should probably be dealt with quickly. Money may be behind the problem and some sort of budget will help the situation immensely. Consider a change in your vocation if it helps you earn more. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get out and do things you enjoy. A serious change at home will help you to move forward with greater freedom. Love is in the stars and plans to do something romantic during the evening hours will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can make some important decisions and changes that will make your life so much better. Be spontaneous. Social activities will encourage you to go ahead with some of your own plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): The more interaction you have with others, the more confidence you will gain. You can't waste your time getting angry over past mistakes when the future is where you should be focusing. A change is overdue. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do things right the first time or someone will be quick to criticize you. Connecting with people from your past will help you make some vital decisions about your future and where you want to live and work. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Follow your heart and don't limit what you can do. You have lots to consider about your past, present and future. Base decisions on what satisfies your needs. Change should be a positive adventure. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't spend money you don't have. You will be asked to pay back an old debt or receive an unexpected expense. There are a lot of secrets being kept from you. A love connection with someone from your past can help to reunite you with a lot of people you have missed. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make amends for something you have done in the past and you will be able to move forward without feeling bad. Opening up about the way you feel will allow others to respond as well, allowing for new possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are always ready to prove a point. You are unafraid of change. You are steadfast, determined and ready to conquer whatever comes your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5				
1			2	6				7
		8			7	9		
		6		2			9	
9	2						7	1
	3			9		5		
		5	8			3		
8				1	3			2
				4				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	4	1	9	3	6	2	5
6	1	9	5	2	7	8	3	4
2	5	3	6	8	4	7	9	1
1	9	7	8	3	6	5	4	2
3	2	8	9	4	5	1	7	6
4	6	5	2	7	1	9	8	3
9	7	1	4	5	2	3	6	8
5	3	2	7	6	8	4	1	9
8	4	6	3	1	9	2	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NEW PARAGRAPH **Solution: 9 letters**

K	E	S	E	K	T	N	T	A	M	R	O	F	S	P
T	C	M	O	T	M	P	T	E	Z	I	S	C	H	U
N	E	O	E	U	O	A	R	E	I	T	O	R	O	O
I	B	X	L	H	D	U	R	E	Y	N	A	N	R	R
O	S	O	T	B	T	A	Q	L	C	S	D	E	T	G
P	C	S	R	C	M	N	E	E	E	X	T	E	D	E
V	B	I	U	M	T	E	P	R	E	R	E	A	N	I
S	E	R	A	E	G	T	S	M	E	T	I	I	T	T
F	T	R	E	A	M	T	O	P	I	C	L	S	N	E
S	G	O	S	A	C	I	O	N	A	T	E	E	D	T
T	E	S	R	E	K	R	C	P	U	C	T	T	R	N
(T)	A	G	J	Y	T	W	A	O	E	N	I	O	O	G
P	(I)	B	A	P	O	R	T	I	O	N	S	N	W	I
N	U	(D)	S	P	W	E	P	C	S	W	O	R	G	L
S	T	N	(E)	M	U	C	O	D	S	G	N	O	L	A

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

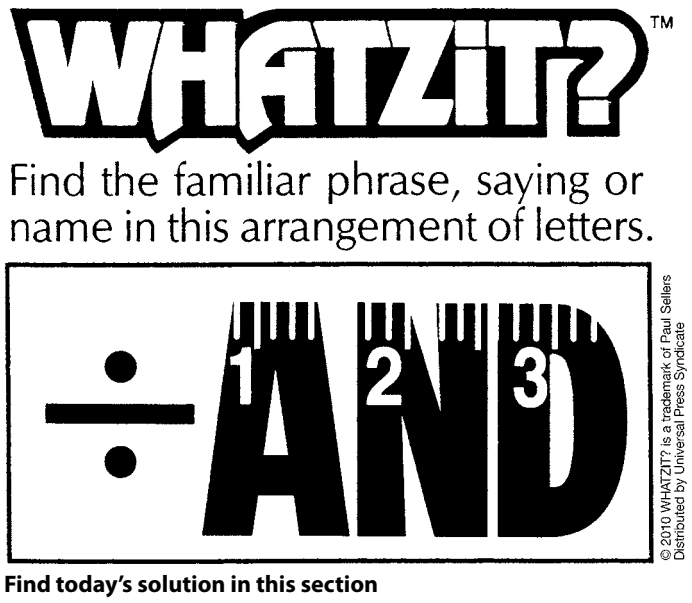
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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San Jose
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 235-8846
Fax (670) 235-8848

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of LAWRENCE L. BREWSTER Deceased.	Civil Action No. 09-0522-CV NOTICE OF HEARING: PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF HEARING

The hearing on the above-referenced Petition for Letters of Administration is set for the 26th day of January, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 202A, before the Honorable Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Name: Jesus S. Santos and
Marie C. Santos
P.O. Box 7305 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 483-1395/989-2695

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship for: **Eleria Rochel Babauta Camacho** Minor Child By: Jesus S. Santos and Marie C. Santos Petitioners	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0004 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 27, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2010.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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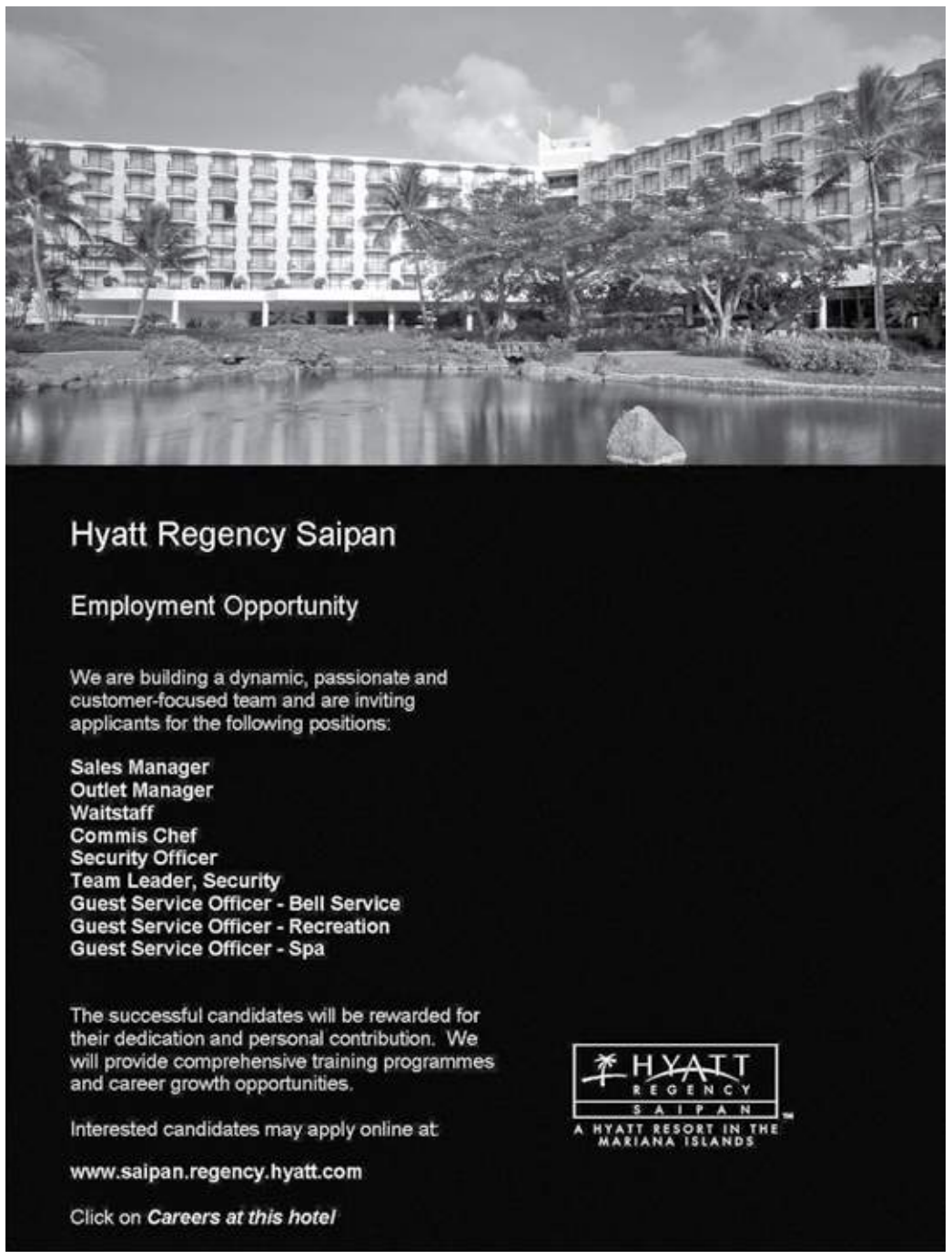
Saipan Tribune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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
PSS RFP 09-042

"PSS ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION: JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES INSTRUCTOR"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested **"TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN THE JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY."** The scope of work is available beginning January 8, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Ms. Jackie Quitugua, ACIS via fax to 670.664.3796 or e-mailed to jackiequitugua@gmail.com no later than January 26, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 09-042" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than January 29, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW10-IFB-002

CONSTRUCTION OF ENCLOSURE HOUSING FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE W.I.C. ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC BUILDINGS LOCATED ON NAVY HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Enclosure Housing for the Emergency Generators for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings Located on Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after Dec. 31, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid oil this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on Jan. 20, 2010, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located in W.I.C. Administration Building, Navy Hill Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on Jan. 25, 2010 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill Saipan or facsimile to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW10-IFB-002**". For bidders within the CNMI, all original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Jan. 29, 2010, and must be received no later than Feb. 09, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, Feb. 12, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on Feb. 03, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNN41 Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00, The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government, The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Public Health

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW10-IFB-003

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE W.I.C. ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC BUILDINGS LOCATED ON NAVY HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery and Installation for the Emergency Generators for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings Located on Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after Dec. 31, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on Jan. 20, 2010, 10:00 a.m. local time at the project site located in W.I.C. Administration Building, Navy Hill Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on Jan. 25, 2010 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill Saipan or facsimile to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPWIO-IFB-003**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Jan. 29, 2010, and must be received no later than Feb. 09, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

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For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

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Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Public Health

Bryant winner lifts Lakers over Mavs

DALLAS (AP)—Kobe Bryant nailed the game-winning shot with 28 seconds left, lifting the Los Angeles Lakers to a 100-95 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday in a clash of the top two teams in the NBA's Western Conference.

Bryant, suffering from a sore back, had only 10 points on 5-of-11 shooting, but Andrew Bynum had 22 points and 11 rebounds to help the Lakers end a three-game road losing streak.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 30 points for the Mavericks to become the 34th player in NBA history with 20,000.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum (17) goes up for a shot as Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41), of Germany, defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, in Dallas.

Nuggets 115, Magic 97

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points to lead Denver over Orlando in a meeting of two divisional leaders.

Chauncey Billups added 24 to help the Nuggets open a 1-1/2 game lead atop the Northwest Division.

Matt Barnes scored a season-high 28 points for Orlando, which played its third straight without leading scorer Vince Carter and saw its Southeast Division lead sliced to half a game.

Spurs 109, Thunder 108, OT

In Oklahoma City, rookie DeJuan Blair set new career highs with 28 points and 21 rebounds as San Antonio edged Oklahoma City in overtime.

Richard Jefferson hit the winner. He ended up with the ball after a Spurs' play went awry, with Manu Ginobili diving out of bounds to save a pass that bounced off of Antonio McDyess. George Hill passed to Jefferson, who beat the shot clock with a 13-foot jumper in the lane with 9 seconds left.

Kevin Durant scored 35 points for the Thunder.

Trail Blazers 120, Bucks 108

In Portland, Oregon, Portland led by as many as 33 points in the second half and shot over 60 percent from the field in defeating Milwaukee.

Brandon Roy, who scored 22 points, went to the locker room with a little more than six minutes left for treatment on a tight hamstring and did not return.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 24 points for Milwaukee, which has lost three straight.

Hawks 94, Wizards 82

In Atlanta, the hosts responded to a Washington challenge to notch a third straight win.

Joe Johnson scored 24 points and Jamal Crawford added 22 for Atlanta, which led by 22 points late in the first half, but saw Washington draw within two points in the fourth quarter.

Despite 25 points from Antawn Jamison, the Wizards lost their third straight as the team tries to play through problems related to Gilbert Arenas' suspension.

Pacers 122, Suns 114

In Indianapolis, the hosts came from 24 points down in the first half to beat Phoenix.

Danny Granger scored 33 points and Mike Dunleavy added a season-high 30 for the Pacers, who were down by 23 points against Toronto on Monday before rallying for a victory.

Amare Stoudemire scored 21 points for the Suns.

Hornets 108, Clippers 94

In New Orleans, Chris Paul had 15 points and 15 assists to lead New Orleans to its seventh win in eight games, downing Los Angeles.

Peja Stojakovic, hitting at least four 3-pointers in a game for the ninth time this season, scored 20 points to help New Orleans beat the Clippers a 12th consecutive time.

Baron Davis scored 19 points for Los Angeles.

Rockets 120, Timberwolves 114, 3OT

In Houston, Aaron Brooks scored a career-high 43 points as Houston pipped Minnesota in triple overtime.

Chuck Hayes grabbed a career-best 17 rebounds for the Rockets, who won their 10th straight against Minnesota.

Al Jefferson pulled down a franchise-record 26 rebounds and scored 26 points for the Timberwolves, playing the team's first ever triple-overtime game.

The Rockets led most of the way, but Corey Brewer swished a half-court shot as the buzzer sounded in regulation to tie it.

Heat 115, Warriors 102

In Oakland, California, Dwyane Wade shook off an injured wrist to score 35 points on his best shooting night of the season as Miami beat Golden State.

Jermaine O'Neal added a season-high 24 points, including two big baskets late for the Heat.

Corey Maggette scored 25 points to lead the Warriors.

Celtics 111, Nets 87

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Boston had a predictably easy win in a meeting of the best and worst teams in the Atlantic Division.

Paul Pierce scored 24 points in 28 minutes, while Ray Allen added 15 points or the Celtics, who were untroubled despite playing without All-Star Kevin Garnett (right knee) and reserve Rasheed Wallace (sore left foot).

Boston made 10 of its first 11 shots and barely slowed up from there, building a 36-point lead during its highest-scoring first half of the season (73) and cruising to its 11th straight victory over the Nets.

Yi Jianlian scored 19 points for New Jersey, which lost its sixth straight.

Knicks 93, 76ers 92

In Philadelphia, David Lee scored 24 points and hit the game-winning layup with 13 seconds remaining as New York edged Philadelphia.

Wilson Chandler added 18 points for the Knicks, who won their first game in Philadelphia in five seasons.

Allen Iverson scored 16 points for the Sixers.

Celtics' Doc Rivers fined $25K for haranguing refs

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP)—Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers was fined $25,000 by the NBA on Wednesday for an argument with officials that led to two quick technicals and an ejection.

"They admit that the ... call was wrong," Rivers said. "Of all the fines I've ever had, this is by far the most disappointing. I just don't get this one. I watched a couple of coaches last week run out on the floor and no fine. I get fined for being right."

Rivers was irate over a flagrant foul called on Glen "Big Baby" Davis with in Monday's game against the Atlanta Hawks. The Celtics coach drew consecutive technicals when he didn't stop yelling at referee Bennett Salvatore; a third "T" was called on soft-spoken assistant Armond Hill.

Thanks in part to the four-point play, Atlanta won 102-96.

Rivers said the league called to tell him the officials were mistaken in their ruling.

"I didn't want to hear the explanation when they called, honestly. I was not in the mood," Rivers said. "I didn't let them (explain) because there was no explanation.

"They said I stayed out on the floor too long, or whatever, which I didn't do. I didn't swear, kept saying, 'it's an awful call,' so I'm perplexed by the fine. I was perplexed at the time and so I still am."

Rivers had last been ejected against Chicago in March. He was also fined $25,000, and referee Bill Kennedy was fined an undisclosed amount.

No. 1 pick Griffin to have season-ending surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin's first season with the Los Angeles Clippers is over before it even began.

Griffin will have surgery on his broken left kneecap, keeping the No. 1 draft pick out for at least more four months, the eternally star-crossed Clippers announced in a statement Wednesday.

Griffin hasn't played a regular-season game yet for the Clippers after injuring his kneecap in their final preseason game Oct. 23, wincing in pain as he landed after a dunk. After resting the stress fracture for several weeks, the former Oklahoma star recently increased his workload in rehabilitation by running on a treadmill.

But the power forward recently developed pain in his knee while jumping in a pool, and an examination Tuesday revealed his recovery wasn't progressing properly.

"It's a little disappointing, because he brings so much to the table," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said on a conference call. "As a group, we're coming together better all the time, and adding that talent to our lineup was something we were looking forward to."

After a loss in Memphis on Tuesday, the Clippers will play at New Orleans on Wednesday night before returning to Los Angeles for a road game against the Lakers on Friday. Dunleavy hadn't spoken to his team since learning Griffin won't be back until next season.

"I think the reaction is going to be one of disappointment, but he hasn't been here all year," Dunleavy said. "We've just got to move forward and do what we were planning on doing anyway—making the playoffs."

Being the top pick hasn't been such an honor in recent NBA drafts. Griffin is the second No. 1 selection in the past three years to miss his entire first season with an injury.

Greg Oden, the Ohio State center chosen by the Portland Trail Blazers in 2007, had microfracture surgery on his right knee three months after the draft. Last month, Oden also broke his left kneecap and was lost for the rest of this season.

Griffin was the consensus college player of the year with 22.7 points and an NCAA-best 14.4 rebounds per game last season for the Sooners, and the Clippers eagerly chose him in last June's draft.

Griffin averaged 13.7 points and 8.1 rebounds during the preseason, and Dunleavy and his new teammates all expected him to be a major part of their comeback season. Instead, Griffin has never been fully healthy in Los Angeles, even straining his right shoulder during summer league play in Las Vegas.

"We just got to look forward, not look back, and move on and hopefully he's healthy for next year," said Clippers center Chris Kaman. "He's a great player and a great guy and he's got a lot of potential. It's frustrating, but what do you do, you know?

"Any time someone gets hurt, you don't control those things. Those things happen and you try to do the best you can and live with it. He looked really solid in preseason and unfortunately the injury, and he's just kind of stuck behind the 8-ball."

The pool exercises were part of the last hurdles to be cleared before Griffin could rejoin the Clippers in practice. He has been a constant presence at Clippers games and in film sessions during his injury.

"Blake learned a lot off the court (during his injury)," Dunleavy said. "He's been very much in tune with everything we're doing, and he's just going to continue in that mode. I think he'll come back next season more prepared."

Griffin's woes sadly can't be surprising to fans of a team with just two winning seasons in the last 30 years and just one playoff series victory since moving to town in 1984.

The Clippers also have a long history of disappointing draft picks, including a pair of No. 1 overall choices that didn't dazzle.

Danny Manning played just 26 games in his rookie season in 1988-89 after tearing his knee ligament and undergoing surgery, though he eventually became an All-Star before fleeing town. Michael Olowokandi, the top pick in 1998, played just 45 games in his rookie season, and he wasn't much help even when healthy during five underachieving seasons.

Dunleavy also said leading scorer Chris Kaman wouldn't play against New Orleans. Kaman, averaging 20.4 points and 9.4 rebounds, had an MRI exam after apparently aggravating his sore lower back during warmups in Memphis.

Beltran has knee surgery, will miss Mets' opener

NEW YORK (AP)—This year, the New York Mets are hurting before the season even starts.

Carlos Beltran had surgery on his troublesome right knee Wednesday and the All-Star center fielder is expected to miss the start of the season. His decision to have the operation also sparked a dispute about whether he had received permission from the team, and perhaps whether the surgery was needed.

Either way, it's more bad news for the Mets, ravaged by serious injuries to several stars last year while sliding to 70-92 and fourth place in the NL East. Hoping for a fast start to the upcoming season, New York will likely be without one of its best players for at least the first few weeks.

A person with knowledge of the situation said Beltran did not obtain advance written consent from the club to have the surgery, which was performed by his personal physician, Dr. Richard Steadman, in Colorado. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Mets didn't discuss the matter publicly.

Beltran's agent, Scott Boras, said the guarantee language in the slugger's contract requires advance written permission only for elective operations.

"This was necessary surgery, necessary surgery to work," Boras told The Associated Press.

The Mets might claim that the operation was elective.

Boras said Steadman spoke with Mets medical director Dr. David Altchek on Monday and again after Beltran was examined in Colorado on Tuesday, and that Steadman obtained Altchek's consent for the surgery.

Boras also said he called Mets executives Monday to tell them Beltran was going to see Steadman and that they should keep in touch with Altchek. The agent said he traveled to Colorado with Beltran for the exam.

The person with knowledge of the situation said Altchek was not authorized to give consent because he is not a Mets official.

"Dr. Steadman has represented to us that he spoke with the Mets' physician and he received consent to go forward with the plan and the surgery," Boras said. "Dr. Steadman has told us that his office contacted the Mets trainer and obtained the appropriate insurance forms and received approval for payment to go ahead with the surgery."

The team said Beltran is expected to resume baseball activities in 12 weeks, a timetable that likely would keep him out for most of April—maybe longer.

New York's first official workout for pitchers and catchers is a little more than five weeks away, on Feb. 20. The Mets open the season April 5 against Florida.

"The doctor said eight weeks, possibly, and a window to 12 weeks to resume baseball activities. With elite athletes, the timetable is sometimes shorter than the original prognosis," Boras said.

In a statement released Wednesday night, the Mets said Beltran's osteoarthritis worsened during the offseason and he decided to have arthroscopic surgery to clean out the arthritic area of his knee.

The procedure was performed by Steadman, considered one of the top knee surgeons in the world. He is noted for his work performing microfracture knee surgery on basketball players.

Beltran went to see Steadman last summer for a second opinion on his aching knee, and the doctor agreed with the Mets' medical staff that surgery was not needed at that time.

A five-time All-Star, Beltran missed 2 1/2 months last season with a painful bone bruise on his right knee, coinciding with the team's plunge. He returned Sept. 8 and was eased back into the everyday lineup.

The switch-hitter finished with a team-leading .325 batting average and .415 on-base percentage. He had 10 homers and 48 RBIs.

The Mets said Beltran hadn't felt pain after the season ended or early in his offseason conditioning, but his symptoms "returned to the point where pre-spring training conditioning became too painful."

Boras said Altchek had been examining Beltran once a month during the offseason.

"Since the beginning of November, he was feeling discomfort and pain," Boras said. "They found some fragments in there that had to be removed."

The persistent injury is a major concern for the Mets and Beltran, who turns 33 on April 24. He is about to enter the sixth season of a seven-year, $119 million contract he signed before 2005.

Angel Pagan got regular playing time in Beltran's absence last season and would probably fill in again.

In addition to Beltran, Jose Reyes, Carlos Delgado and Johan Santana were among the Mets stars who missed long stretches of time due to injuries last year, along with pitchers John Maine, Oliver Perez and J.J. Putz.

Patriots' Junior Seau retires again

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Junior Seau is retiring again and looking ahead to more time on his surfboard.

The 12-time Pro Bowl linebacker, who came out of retirement to rejoin the New England Patriots in their sixth game this season, said in remarks taped for broadcast Wednesday night on Showtime that he's ending his career.

Seau played eight games for the Patriots this season, all as a backup, finishing with last Sunday's 33-14 playoff loss to Baltimore in which he made a season-high five tackles.

"That's going to be my last game," he said during the interview taped on Wednesday.

That was more definitive than comments earlier in the interview when he said, "I'm going to go surf. ... Whatever happens, I can say, honestly say, that that probably was my last game."

Seau first left football briefly in August 2006 after 13 seasons with San Diego and three with Miami.

"I'm not retiring. I am graduating. Today is my graduation day," he said then. "Retirement means that you'll just go ahead and live on your laurels and surf all day in Oceanside (Calif.). It ain't going to happen."

He signed with the Patriots four days later and started 14 of the 27 games he played for them over two seasons. He retired after the 2007 season, then came out of retirement for the final four games in 2008 before retiring after that season.

Seau, who turns 41 on Tuesday, played seven regular-season games this season, all as a backup, and made 15 tackles. New England finished 10-6 and won the AFC East.

The Patriots fell behind 24-0 in the first quarter Sunday and allowed the Ravens to rush for 234 yards. Tom Brady threw three interceptions and lost a fumble.

"You have to be accountable," Seau said in the interview on Showtime's Inside the NFL. "He's going to be accountable to what he did, but there's no one, no one can be exempt in that locker room as to what happened to us against the Baltimore Ravens. And that's talking the coaches, offense, defense and special teams. So, we lost to the Baltimore Ravens because they are a better team."

Seau first played this season in wins over Tennessee and Tampa Bay. But he didn't play in the next three games and was inactive the following week despite being healthy for a 22-21 loss at Miami on Dec. 6. Then he played the remaining five regular-season games.

His return to the Patriots this season had been announced by Versus, the television network on which he has a show, "Sports Jobs with Junior Seau," in which he does jobs in other sports, including riding a hockey Zamboni and working as a ballboy for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

On the day of the Versus announcement, the club did not announce his return, but team owner Robert Kraft said, "He's a unique individual. I'd love to have him part of our team for as long as he wants to."

Seau was known for his passion and leadership, two qualities the Patriots needed after Rodney Harrison and Tedy Bruschi retired and Mike Vrabel and Richard Seymour were traded before the season.

"I'm too old to be excited," Seau said when he signed on Oct. 14. "I'm too old to jump up for joy. I know that the only way this is all going to be exciting to anyone, (is) if it works."

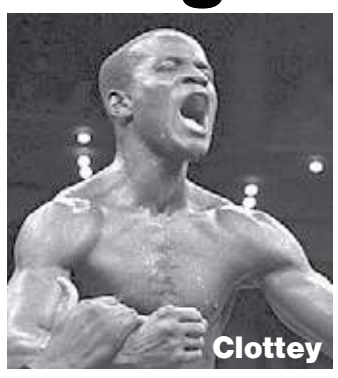
No catch weight vs Joshua Clottey

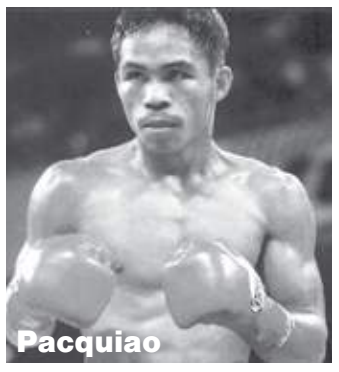
BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—He will face a naturally bigger fighter again and, this time, Manny Pacquiao will be plunging into his latest challenge without the benefit of a catch weight.

And despite the testy challenge expected from last-minute replacement Joshua Clottey, Pacquiao has started out a 3-1 favorite for the March 13 bout in one of the biggest venues that has ever hosted a boxing match.

Pacquiao squares off with Clottey at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, after the collapse of talks to hold boxing's so-called "Fight of the Century" pitting Pacquiao


Clottey


Pacquiao

and undefeated American superstar Floyd Mayweather Jr. due to a disagreement on drug-testing protocols.

Examiner.com reported yesterday that betting lines will open with Pacquiao the prohibitive favorite.

Bettors need to wager $300 to win $100. Clottey will start at plus-270, meaning a $100 bet on the former world champion will earn $270.

Although facing a veteran welterweight, trainer Freddie Roach remains confident of a victory for Pacquiao, who captured the WBO welterweight crown via a 12-round TKO of Miguel Cotto at a 145 lb catch weight.

"Manny's comfortable at [147 lb]," Roach declared in a report posted by Fighthype.com. "When Manny's eating the day of the weigh-in and gets to eat twice before the weigh-in, he's happy and that's when he performs at his best—when he's smiling and in a good mood."

"He'll come into the fight 144 to 145 and he'll go into the ring at 148 or 149 at most," added the trainer. "And that's his best fighting weight."

Roach had earlier predicted that Pacquiao will become the first fighter to knock Clottey out, although Top Rank chief Bob Arum, who promotes Pacquiao, warned that Clottey will be a tough challenge and should be worth the pay-per-view price of the bout, expected to be within the $40 to $50 mark.

"Well, Clottey is a dangerous opponent. Miguel Cotto was a dangerous opponent. If they're not dangerous opponents, who the hell wants to lay out hard-earned money to buy the pay-per-view?" Arum told Examiner.com. ***(PDI)***

AYUYUS

From Page 36

Kagman's last four points. His two free throws helped Kagman seal its debut win. The Ayuyus are this year's defending champion in the junior varsity division, while Kagman's varsity team finished runner-up to MHS last season.

Junior Varsity

KHS 50 – Mettao 17, Talalemoto 15, Norita 7, Bormilla 6, Taitano 2, Pineda 2.

SSHS 46 – Sablan 12, Ni. Salem 8, Tudela 7, Escalada 6, Alegre 5, Oei 4, Ne. Salem 2.

Scoring by halves: 24-23, 50-46

Varsity

KHS 38 – Brel 12, Faisao 6, Reyes 5, Norita 4, Lisua 4, Kaipat 3, Manglona 2, Maratita 2.

SSHS 33 – Benavente 11, Duenas 10, Cadiang 5, Fleming 3, Ecalnea 3, Villanueva 1.

Scoring by halves: 17-19, 38-33.

GO

From Page 36

out play against second batter Jess Magofna. Third batter Joe Quitugua singled and made it to as far as third base, but was left stranded there when Go For Broke second baseman Ken Pangelinan caught Noel Deleon Guerrero's fly ball.

On offense, Cruz led Go For Broke with his three RBIs on a 2-for-3 stint at bat. Andrew Pangelinan added two RBIs and was also 2-for-3 at the plate.

Calikano 9, Team Familia 7

Calikano notched its second straight win after a 9-7 triumph over Team Familia.

Calikano leaned on a five-run top of the second inning to control the game and halted Team Familia's rally in the last three innings to improve to an even 3-3 mark. Team Familia dropped to a 1-4 slate. Team Familia had to play catch up as it scored only one run in the first four innings against Calikano's eight.

Left fielder Ben Deleon Guerrero, right fielder Navan Falig, and extra hitter Ryan Mizutani paced Calikano with two RBIs each.

Man Amigos 20, Red Eye 7

Man Amigos posted a lopsided win against Red Eye, 20-7, to improve to a 6-1 slate.

Man Amigos were on target in the first three innings, scoring 18 runs to end the game after only five innings and hand Red Eye its fourth loss in six matches.

After taking a 4-1 lead, Man Amigos broke the game wide open with an eight-run top of the second, highlighted by Peter Sablan's three-run homer. In the third inning, it was Jerry Ayuyu's turn to make a round-tripper and bring a teammate to home plate, upping Man Amigos' lead to 12, 18-6. Man Amigos never looked back, as they still outscored Red Eye in the last two innings, 2-1.

8 VIE

From Page 36

name was later dropped from the list after his alleged involvement in robbery and theft.

Winner of the MVP plum will be announced during Game 1 of the best-of-three championship series on Jan. 20. Spectators will have a say on the selection for the top performer in the regular season, as UBA will be giving away 100 ballots to fans. Selection for the MVP winner will then be based on votes from fans, statistics, sportsmanship, and votes from UBA officials and committee members.

If statistics alone will be the basis for choosing the winner of the MVP trophy, Docomo phone, and Docomo phone cards, three players—Barcinas Bernardo, and Cadagat—will be engaged in a tough fight.

Among the eight contenders, Barcinas emerged as the player with the most points scored in seven games in the regular season, compiling 157 markers. He was all over the court, as he also collected 27 and 41 offensive and defensive rebounds, respectively, and gained 37 assists, 55 steals, and seven blocks.

Bernardo was fourth among the eight candidates in scoring, tallying 134 points. He could have placed higher, but he scored only six points in Noni's 81-101 loss to Prospects on Wednesday. Bernardo redeemed himself in the rebound department, collaring 44 boards in the offensive end and 39 in the defensive category. He also logged 14 assists, 12 steals, and two blocks.

Cadagat, a crowd favorite with his fancy moves, scored 135 points in seven games and as expected fell behind in the rebound department with only nine (offensive) and seven (defensive). He was one feed behind Estolas' 48 assists and also second in steals with 24.

Herrera was the second top-scorer in the race with 137 points, but failed to lift Trinity to a single win in the regular season. Herrera also collected 15 and 23 offensive and defensive rebounds, 17 assists, 19 steals, and one block.

Jung earned 122 points, 27 and 29 offensive and defensive boards, 14 assists, 12 steals, and two shotblocks, while Estolas also posted 122 markers, seven and 18 offensive and defensive rebounds, 48 assists, 12 steals, and one block.

Barrios was seventh among the eight contenders in scoring with his 121 points. He added 11 and 20 offensive and defensive rebounds, 27 assists, 14 steals, and one shotblock. Manibusan was last in scoring with 67 after missing two games for Hoopaholics, but topped the blocks department with 10. He was third in rebounds with a total of 64 and tallied 11 assists and 15 steals.

LEGACY

From Page 36

erarchy now has the Coldeen Addendum No. 6: the need to leave a legacy. Once upon a short time ago, when people got older they wanted to retire and do nothing or as little as possible except enjoy themselves. Yes, some people are still like that but more and more we seeing people who refuse to quit and want to share their abilities and passions, leaving behind something we can treasure and admire.

Three recent events prompted me to think about legacy: 1) the retirement of Bobby Bowden; 2) the passing of Roque Celis; and 3) the confession of Mark McGwire.

Let me admit off the bat that I am no fan of Florida State (although I was only one day away from going to graduate school there but then I got a nice contract to work for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and well, the rest is history). Bobby Bowden was simply too good against the Gators for me to like him, but I must admit I respected him and his program.

That respect grew infinitely larger when I saw his farewell speech after his last game.

One reporter asked about him leaving with the second most wins in college football history. First he joked, "If Joe Pa retires, will someone please give me a call?" Then his wife came over to the podium and hugged him, and the 'ole ball coach said something along the line of "when it's all over, it doesn't matter how many wins I had or if it was the most or second most. That's not what's really important." And his wife kissed him and you knew that he was talking about love which is what you really leave behind when you leave the world. Records are just plain numbers on cold dead paper but love lives in a beating heart of warm blood.

Whenever someone younger than me passes away, it's, huh, disconcerting. Roque Celis was exactly six months younger than me. He did something I admired, respected, and would not have not minded doing if it wasn't for a million other things I had to do. He was the first person at the ball field Saturday and Sundays for Little League games and the last to leave plus he was a good-natured firebrand fixture at softball games. Little League Baseball with hundreds of kids every year lost one of their best friends. Roque may not have had big feet but he leaves big shoes to fill.

Mark McGwire's decision to fess up to using performance enhancing drugs, in my opinion, was to lay the foundation for the legacy he now wants to leave, having given up on keeping the ruse he desperately tried to maintain which includes not telling U.S. Congress squat. With his legacy on the line, he decided it was better to be open and honest than evasive and ambiguous. His tears were true even if some of his comments were not. One example: saying that steroids and HGH didn't help him hit more home runs. Big Red who I have always considered a "good guy" struck out on that swing but homered by finally coming clean about the juice.

Legacy is not something you think about when trying to pay the bills, or staying healthy, or getting an education, or making it through the day. It's only after you take care of all the other things and decide how you want to be remembered, whether it be a winning coach, a devotee to the world's greatest game, or a tremendous power hitter, or even better yet in terms of real meaning, a loving family man, a valuable and cheerful volunteer, or just an honest guy.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	10	.730	–
Toronto	19	20	.487	9
New York	16	22	.421	11 1/2
Philadelphia	12	26	.316	15 1/2
New Jersey	3	35	.079	24 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	26	13	.667	–
Atlanta	25	13	.658	1/2
Miami	19	18	.514	6
Charlotte	17	19	.472	7 1/2
Washington	12	25	.324	13

Central Division

Cleveland	30	10	.750	–
Chicago	16	20	.444	12
Milwaukee	15	21	.417	13
Indiana	13	25	.342	16
Detroit	12	25	.324	16 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	25	13	.658	–
San Antonio	24	13	.649	1/2
Houston	22	17	.564	3 1/2
New Orleans	20	17	.541	4 1/2
Memphis	19	18	.514	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	25	14	.641	–
Portland	24	16	.600	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	21	17	.553	3 1/2
Utah	21	17	.553	3 1/2
Minnesota	8	32	.200	17 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	30	9	.769	–
Phoenix	24	15	.615	6
L.A. Clippers	17	20	.459	12
Sacramento	15	22	.405	14
Golden State	11	26	.297	18

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 94, Washington 82
Indiana 122, Phoenix 114
New York 93, Philadelphia 92
Boston 111, New Jersey 87
New Orleans 108, L.A. Clippers 94
San Antonio 109, Oklahoma City 108, OT
L.A. Lakers 100, Dallas 95
Houston 120, Minnesota 114,3OT
Denver 115, Orlando 97
Portland 120, Milwaukee 108
Miami 115, Golden State 102

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	33	340	275	985	29.8
James, CLE	40	407	294	1175	29.4
Bryant, LAL	38	412	241	1110	29.2
Durant, OKC	37	357	300	1064	28.8
Wade, MIA	36	335	255	959	26.6
Ellis, GOL	36	373	175	942	26.2
Nowitzki, DAL	36	323	228	900	25.0
Bosh, TOR	39	321	288	936	24.0
Roy, POR	38	317	205	892	23.5
Arenas, WAS	32	253	153	722	22.6
Johnson, ATL	37	305	110	785	21.2
Stoudemire, PHX	38	304	186	794	20.9
Evans, SAC	33	251	160	680	20.6
Randolph, MEM	37	302	149	756	20.4
Kaman, LAC	35	299	116	714	20.4
Gay, MEM	35	269	150	714	20.4
Duncan, SAN	34	277	131	685	20.1
Jackson, CHA	36	260	148	718	19.9
Williams, UTA	34	243	139	668	19.6
Maggette, GOL	35	214	236	671	19.2

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	175	274	.639
Gasol, MEM	208	340	.612
Howard, ORL	213	349	.610
Horford, ATL	210	361	.582
Hilario, DEN	202	351	.575
Lee, NYK	292	513	.569
Landry, HOU	228	401	.569
Stoudemire, PHX	304	536	.567
Duncan, SAN	277	498	.556
Bynum, LAL	226	410	.551

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	38	141	358	499	13.1
Noah, CHI	36	142	297	439	12.2
Wallace, CHA	35	75	329	404	11.5
Camby, LAC	35	104	296	400	11.4
Randolph, MEM	37	171	250	421	11.4
Bosh, TOR	39	122	318	440	11.3
Lee, NYK	37	86	320	406	11.0
Haywood, WAS	35	142	228	370	10.6
Boozer, UTA	38	76	321	397	10.4
Duncan, SAN	34	99	256	355	10.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	38	428	11.3
Paul, NOR	28	310	11.1
Williams, UTA	34	331	9.7
Rondo, BOS	35	336	9.6
Kidd, DAL	37	325	8.8
B. Davis, LAC	36	295	8.2
James, CLE	40	313	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	37	267	7.2
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	37	233	6.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UBA STANDINGS

Advance	7	0
Ol'Aces	6	1
Noni Saipan	4	4
Prospect	4	3
Diamond	3	4
Hoopaholics	3	4
Cholos	1	6
Trinity	0	7

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	6	0
Island Rebels	5	0
Man Amigos	6	1
SaiPal	5	1
Chura	4	1
San Roque	3	1
6-Pack	4	2
Freedom Air Flyers	4	2
Ur Balls	3	2
Hitz	3	3
Calikano-Falcons	3	3
Blazers	2	3
Red Eye	2	4
G-Ballers	2	4
Berdax	1	3
Team Familia	1	4
Lancheros	1	4
Go For Broke	2	5
Team Fuegu	1	5
Ramblers	1	6
X-Terminators	0	5

Micro Games hopefuls to join Tennis Challenge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Loyola Sports Promotion will be holding the first tournament of the year in the CNMI with the staging of the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge for two weekends at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The first weekend of the competition is set for Jan. 23 to 24 and will have junior short court singles in Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4. Level 1 will be divided into two groups, beginners and open. Junior singles will all be co-ed and will have a double-elimination format.

The adults singles is scheduled for Jan. 30 and 31 and will have separate competitions for men's and women's divisions in four categories, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, and open.

The second and last week of the tournament, particularly the men's and women's open divisions, will be the centerpiece of the first netfest of the year. The open singles is expected to feature players trying out for slots on the CNMI National Team that will compete in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

CNMI coach Jeff Race said the Saipan Tennis Challenge will gauge how far members of the pool have gone through as far as preparations for the Micro Games are concerned.

"The tournament will show how much their games have improved since we started training two months ago," said Race, who will also join the two-weekend event.

"We need to play in as many tournaments as we can so we will be better prepared for the Micronesian Games," Race added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI coach Jeff Race makes a backhand return to Lydia Tan during a training session on the PIC hardcourt last month.

The Micro Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10 this year with the CNMI hoping to defend its title in the lawn tennis competition.

Besides Race, others vying for slots on the team are returnees Todd Montgomery and Ji Hoon Heo, Peter Loyola, and Rafael Jones. Heo will not be able to join the Saipan Challenge, as he is set to leave for New Zealand on Monday and will not be back until the second week of February.

In the women's division, the pool is composed of Thea Minor, Lydia Tan, Laila Mailman, Melody Johnson, and Jodel Fernandez. Minor is still in Australia competing in her third and last tournament in the Land Down Under, but is expected to be back on island in time for the Saipan Tennis Challenge.

Deadline for the submission of entry forms and fees for the first weekend of the tournament is set for Jan. 20, while participants in the second weekend have until Jan. 27 to turn in registrations forms and payments. Players can join only as much as two events per week. Entry fee is only $10 per event and the Top 3 winners will receive prizes.

For more information, contact Loyola at 285-3135.

Prospects routs Noni in UBA caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Prospects gained the No. 3 seeding in the playoffs after whipping Noni Saipan, 101-81, in the last game in the regular season of the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League on Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Prospects finished the round-robin elimination with a 4-3 record. Noni had a similar mark but dropped to fourth place due to the winner-over-the-other rule.

With the win, Prospects is paired against the No. 6-ranked Hoopaholics in tonight's playoff game at 6:30pm. In the second playoff match at 8pm, Noni will collide against Diamond. Winners of the games in the first round of the playoffs will advance to the semifinals, while losers will join Cholos (1-6) and Trinity Estate (0-7) to an early vacation. The victor of the Prospects-Hoopaholics tiff will duel pennant champion Advance in the first semis game on Monday, while Ol'Aces will square off with the winner of the Noni-Diamond match in the other semis pairing.

Noni was still in the game at the end of the third period, trailing by only five, 62-67, when Prospects broke away in the fourth en route to a 20-point win. Prospects outscored Noni Saipan, 34-19, in the final canto.

Prospects came in full force in its last game in the regular season with Darwin Barbo and Ryan Sanciangco teaming up with Bonbon Cadagat, Quincy Johnson, and Errol Peredo. All five scored in double figures with Cadagat leading the way with 22 points.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Prospects' Bonbon Cadagat goes up for a fancy layup against Noni Saipan's Ivan De Vero left, during their game in the UBA caging on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

GAMES TONIGHT
- 6:30pm - Prospects vs. Hoopaholics
- 8pm - Noni vs. Diamond

Cadagat and Barbo led Prospect's fourth-quarter assault, making nine and eight markers, respectively, in the final canto.

Wowie Abuel and Glenn Aquino topscored for Noni with 15 markers each, while Sonny Lerio was only the third Noni player to break into double figures with his 12 points. Kae Bernardo did not score in double figures for the first time this season, as he was held to six points and fouled out in the fourth period.

In the first game, Ol'Aces ended the regular season on a winning note after a 94-70 demolition of Cholos.

Spitfire Mike Olaitiman and Dan Barcinas led Ol'Aces' win, drilling 27 and 22 markers, respectively, while Gabriel White chipped in 17, Tyrone Omar contributed 12, and Jose Tumaquip had 10.

Cholos was still ahead by a point, 17-16, at the end of the opening quarter when Ol'Aces began seizing control of the match in the second period. Olaitiman scored Ol'Aces' first eight points in the second quarter, while White and Barcinas added six apiece, putting their team in front at the break, 46-32.

The lead ballooned to 19 in the third period and Ol'Aces' guns were still blazing in the final canto, foiling Cholos' bid for a graceful exit.

First Game

Ol'Aces 94 – Olaitiman 27, Barcinas 22, White 17, Omar 12, Tumaquip 10, Rangamar 6.

Cholos 70 – Kapileo 17, Won 15, Aranda 13, George 6, Coldeen 6, Mendiola 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 46-32, 65-54, 94-70.

Second Game

Prospects 101 – Cadagat 22, Barbo 17, Johnson 16, Peredo 12, Sanciangco 10, Lauron 8, Inos 7, Paul 5.

Noni Saipan 81 – Abuel 15, Aquino 15, Lerio 12, Tamayo 8, De Vero 7, Demapan 7, Bernardo 6, Pantaleon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 36-36, 67-62, 101-81.

NMIVA launches website

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association launched its new website www.nmivolleyball.org this past weekend.

While the website is in its infant stages, it features various details about NMIVA's activities including clinics, leagues, and tournaments with a big emphasis on the Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

Laurie Peterka, president for NMIVA enthusiastically shared, "This is just the beginning! We are building with an open architecture concept that will allow us to add new content easily. Since we are our own webmaster, we can control what, how much and when. Right now, you can see very basic information, but we hope to use this website for posting games schedules, some type of hall of fame with profiles on the CNMI's finest as well as any other information that is relevant to our sport."

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association launched its new website this past weekend and is encouraging all facets of the sport–indoor, beach, and even Rocball–to contribute content on the site.

As part of its commitment to redirecting its efforts NMIVA is offering to include any CNMI volleyball and/or Rocball clubs to have their very own page on the NMIVA website.

"We encourage CNMI-wide participation at the NMIVA website and so we invite your volleyball or rocball club to provide us with information for the site. MISO, COPPSA, DYS, SafeHaven, Island Volleyball Club and those who we have not yet met, please get in touch—we want to share your story at the NMIVA website," said Peterka.

While the content at the NMIVA website is still under construction, it shares some immediate and relevant information in the Countdown Box on the left sidebar, such as the FREE refereeing clinic at MHS, which is now only a few days away (Saturday, Jan. 16, 9am-4pm at MHS gym) and the NMIVA News Wire Blog reveals that the 2010 Marianas Beach Volleyball Cup will be held Feb. 25-28 across three venues this year, including the Hyatt Regency Saipan, the Fiesta Resort and Spa, and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Additionally, the front page boasts a real-time calendar of events that allows users to save events directly into their own calendars. Website visitors who spend a little time clicking around from the home page will also find a links to various international volleyball organizations, photo albums, and a space reserved for archives.

For more information or to add your organization's information at the NMIVA website, please email nmivolleyball@gmail.com. ***(NMIVA)***

SEDA banquet, entry deadline set for Sunday

Winners in the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League will be feted in an awards banquet this Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

Included in the winners' list are champions D'Pirates CK Destroyers (Tuesday B), Bud's Brothers B (Tuesday B), Jonny's Black Stallions (Masters), Black Stallions Jr. (A division), Jonny's Wasabe (C Kingfisher), Bud's Bwiibwis "C" (C Chichirika), and VFW Yakau (Ladies).

The top placers and two other runners-up in each division will be awarded trophies. Top individual performers in each category will also receive awards.

Meanwhile, SEDA is reminding interested teams that deadline for the submission of registration forms and tournament fees for the 2010 season is also set for Sunday. The 2010 season of the SEDA league is scheduled tentatively for Feb. 1. ***(PR)***

Bryant winner lifts Lakers over Mavs

Kobe Bryant nailed the game-winning shot with 28 seconds left, lifting the Los Angeles Lakers to a 100-95 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday in a clash of the top two teams in the NBA's Western Conference. **32**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Micro Games hopefuls to join Tennis Challenge

Loyola Sports Promotion will be holding the first tournament of the year in the CNMI with the staging of the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge for two weekends at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. **35**

Ayuyus sweep Rays in MISO caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School took the early lead in the varsity division of the 2010 MISO High School Basketball League after outclassing Saipan Southern High School, 38-33, on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The win was the Ayuyus' second in as many games, putting the team a victory ahead of defending champion MHS Dolphins (1-0). Southern dropped to a 1-1 slate after failing to make a follow-up to its 37-30 debut win over Mt. Carmel School last week.

Kagman escaped with a five-point lead after scoring two layups off the Rays' trapping defense in the last two minutes of the game and following Southern's dismal showing from the foul line.

The Ayuyus were ahead by only four, 34-30, when Southern's defense collapsed on Juan Maratita, who then made a crosscourt pass to the left wing to Dominic Reyes for an easy layup.

The Rays threatened Kagman anew, 31-36, but Jimmy Brel found a cutting Ryan Lisua from the right wing and issued another crosscourt pass to give the Ayuyus more breathing space.

Southern had several chances to inch in closer or even take the lead, but muffed crucial free throws, going only 5-for-12 in the last 1:44 of the match. Both Ian Benavente and Matt Duenas went 2-for-4 from the 15-foot line, Tristan Ecalnea was 1-for-2, while Toby Fleming hit 0-for-2.

Fleming trooped to the charity line in the last 32 seconds of the match after grabbing a loose ball and getting a foul from Lisua. Had he made the two free shots, he would have moved Southern within three. Fleming missed both free throws and Kagman collared the rebound and wisely used up the clock to keep its unbeaten record.

Brel paced the Ayuyus with 12 points.

It was a double celebration for Kagman, as the Ayuyus also prevailed against the Rays in the junior varsity division, 50-46.

Francisco Mettao top-scored for Kagman with 17 markers, but it was Savali Talalemoto's clutch baskets that lifted the Ayuyus to a four-point win. Talalemoto finished with 15 points, scoring

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Kagman High School's Dave Camacho reaches for the ball during a rebound play in their game against Saipan Southern High School in the varsity division of the MISO caging on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Go For Broke ends skid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Go For Broke snapped its three-game losing skid, pulling off a 16-15 win over Ramblers during their game in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Go For Broke gained only its second win in seven matches to remain at the bottom half of the 21-team field. Ramblers have a worse record at 1-6.

Center fielder Andrew Pangelinan scored the winning run at the top of the seventh inning on a Ramblers error and Go for Broke preserved the lead and the win through its tight defense at the bottom of the seventh.

Pitcher Alfred Hocog struck out Ramblers leadoff batter and extra hitter Darryl Tomakane, while shortstops Shawn Matsutaro and first baseman George Cruz teamed up in a 6-3 put-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

J.J. Laniyo, who plays for Man Amigos, made a two-run homer in the team's 20-7 triumph against Red Eye during their game in the Chamolinian league on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

8 vie for MVP race in UBA caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The race is on for the regular season MVP in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League, following UBA's announcement of the eight contenders for the coveted individual award.

Making the list are Prospects' Bonbon Cadagat, Trinity Estate's Roger Herrera, Cholos' Won Joo Jung, Noni Saipan's Kae Bernardo, Advance X-Terminators' Jun Estolas, Diamond Fixers' J.R Barrios, Ol'Aces Dan Barcinas, and Hoopaholics' Mel Manibusan.

Selection for the eight contenders were made after coaches from each team nominated three players (not from their own squad) for the list. Nominations were made based on the players' statistics and sportsmanship and the Top 8 vote getters then are entered in the MVP race.

Freddie Pelisamen of pennant champion Advance was nominated, but his

See 8 VIE on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Advance's Jun Estolas, seen here looking for a teammate to pass the ball to during their game against Noni Saipan, had the most assists among the Top 8 contenders for the MVP plum in the regular season of the UBA caging.

Legacy

When I was a college student taking Psychology 101, we learned about Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Although that was something from the 1940s and has received its share of criticism, the basics of his theory are good food for thought and still relevant today.

Basically, he outlined five human needs, starting at the bottom with basics and then ascending to higher qualities: 1) basic physical stuff like eating and breathing; 2) safety such as property and health; 3) loving family and friends; 4) esteem from accomplishments and earning respect from others; and finally 5) self-actualization which is becoming all the person you can be through creativity, problem solving, and acceptance of who you are, imperfections included.

One has to take care of the basics first before moving on to the others. Some people never get past step No. 2 but that's not good or bad or any kind of judgment, just the way it is in the world we inherit.

Although it's never been published or publicized, Maslow's Hi-

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2